April 3, 2020

Dear Travis Families,

I hope this finds you in good health and spirits.

We have all shared in a learning curve these last couple of weeks with at-home, virtual learning. There have been successes along with growing pains and things to improve upon ... and a range of experiences and emotions regarding all of it. We are right there with you on this.

Please know that we are staying attuned to how you’re feeling, taking feedback into account, and working to grow, improve, and layer more onto what we’re doing across grade levels – all while recognizing and adapting to individual family circumstances and needs.

We have spent a lot of time behind the scenes making sure families have what they need at home to support learning. We have also been working more with our teachers this week and will evolve and improve on expanding (or streamlining) communication, daily schedules, and the lessons they’ll be posting and supporting students with moving ahead. We will be layering on more live, virtual connection with students in several forms – considering student safety and privacy, what’s age-appropriate, and ensuring parental permission and oversight.

As you can imagine, across large teaching teams there are varied skillsets and levels of experience using technology and planning online activities, so we are working internally on training, collaborating, and sharing best practices. There are a lot of great things going on and I am grateful to our teachers for their hard work, growth mindset, and eagerness to lean into new learning avenues for our students. In addition to impactful learning activities, I’ve asked our teachers to provide familiarity, love, and connection – and whether through virtual means, or a teacher-led activity like a neighborhood parade, they’re working hard to deliver. In times of disruption and uncertainty, maintaining these connections is just as important to our children as the academic content they receive.

Please continue to ask questions of your child’s teacher and provide feedback on how learning is going at home for your child and what he/she needs. If there are constraints on how often and at what times your child can engage in activities or if you are feeling frustrated or overwhelmed, please communicate with your child’s teacher. Rest assured that we’ll take deep breaths with you, work within the confines of your schedule, and support you and your child(ren)’s needs. We are all in this together.

Other items to note:

- **3rd nine-week report cards** are being mailed home by HISD. In the meantime, you can access your child(ren)’s report card(s) through ‘Parent Student Connect’ ([https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/42143](https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/42143)).
- HISD has informed principals that grades will be taken during the 4th nine-week grading period. The district is adjusting how 4th nine-week averages will be factored into final overall averages and will communicate about this to parents next week. Travis teachers will take a minimum of 1 grade per subject area per week, beginning next week. As stated above, teachers will work through any extenuating circumstances with individual families as needed.
- **Next Friday, April 10** is the **Spring Holiday** – teachers will not provide lessons or assignments that day.

I give thanks for your continued patience, grace, and support as we work to evolve quickly while “building the plane midflight.” Let us know how we can help you.

Sincerely,

Tom Day, Principal