



June 30, 2020

Dear Mission Heights' Students and Families,

We hope you are all safe and well despite all that is going on in our world. I personally feel that things are changing on a day to day basis, and yesterday was one of them. Despite months of planning for our fall re-opening, things changed when Governor Ducey announced that schools cannot begin in-person instruction until August 17th. His announcement does, however, allow schools to begin distance or remote learning per their regular school calendar.

After this change yesterday, Mission Heights has decided to move forward with our original start date of **Friday, July 31st**, not August 17th, with full remote learning. We will do this for a few reasons. First, the longer we delay teaching and learning, the wider achievement gap becomes for our students. Second, our community relies upon our services - food, counseling, tutoring, and social work, to name a few. The longer we delay the start of the year, the longer we delay these vital services for our families.

Finally, we have a plan for remote learning in place that will allow for the same schedule whether we are fully on campus or remote. That said, though, we will not be using the same system we used during Block 4 of last year. Teachers will be preparing their same lessons used for on-campus learning. They will videotape lectures and utilize Google Meets, Google Classroom, and other programs to supplement each class. Students will take a full schedule of at least three classes at a time and will have a suggested daily schedule to follow from home. With this remote learning teaching strategy, students will not be able to work ahead each week, as this block will be taught as if students were on campus in classrooms in hopes that later in the quarter we will be back together again.

Despite some of these answers, there are still gaps we need to now fill due to the Governor's most recent announcement. We hope to provide answers to these questions soon, but, for now, the topics below are on hold as MHP adjusts our remote learning system and plan.

1. How will Orientation days work?
2. Will there still be a Phantom First Day?
3. After August 17th, what will school look like?
4. How will breakfast and lunch services work?
5. What is happening to our fall sports' season?
6. What is happening with CAVIT?

Mission Heights' priority is the safety of our students and staff, and we are here to help educate our students in preparing for their college journeys and beyond. It is our commitment to provide this quality education whether we are remote or on campus. We look forward to the day when we can all be together safely again. In the meantime, should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to communicate with me at any time. We are in this together.

As always, thank you for choosing Mission Heights to educate your child. We look forward to continuing to do so in the 20-21 school year.

Blessings,

Amanda Mace
School Leader