



Tuesday, April 21

Dear Hippo Nation Parents:

Schools Closed the Remainder of this School Year

By executive order of the Governor of Texas on April 17, **all school districts in Texas have physically closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.** Hutto ISD will continue the remote learning that has been occurring.

While we had all hoped that our students and teachers could be reunited before the end of the school year, we respect and understand the Governor's decision.

Our teachers, students, and parents have really stepped up during this unprecedented time, and we will continue to walk through this together as Hippo Nation.

Williamson County COVID-19 Update

The total number of cases in Williamson County as of Tuesday morning is now 158, with 15 of those being in Hutto.

Communications

[LINK TO OUR CRISIS COMMUNICATION PAGE](#)

FAQs

There have been a number of questions on our Facebook page and other outlets concerning action items now that we know schools will be physically closed the remainder of this 2019-20 school year. Some of those questions are answered in this email. We have also set up an FAQ page on our special crisis communication site.

[LINK TO FAQ](#)

Meals for Students

[LINK TO INFO REGARDING MEAL SERVICE](#)

Technology

[LINK FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT CHAT](#)

- Technical Support chat is available for parents/students Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

- For Spanish Technical Support:
Please call 512-759-4770. A Spanish speaker will provide translation for the parent and online tech support person. **Please do not call this number unless you are needing Spanish assistance.**

Events

- Friday, April 24, 12:00 pm: **It's Time Texas - virtual discussion: Parenting During a Pandemic - [LINK TO ZOOM WEBINAR](#)**
- **STEMNation** - canceled (originally scheduled for May 14).
- **Athletic physicals** - the May 13 date has been canceled. The athletic department is making plans for an alternate date, which will be communicated when known.
- **HHS Senior Awards** - event scheduled for May 21 has been canceled. The high school administration team is in the process of planning a virtual awards event.
- **HHS graduation** - still scheduled for May 27. In the event it has to be postponed, HHS has reserved the HEB Center in Cedar Park for June 20 and July 18 as alternative dates. High school and district leaders are also looking at options that could include an outdoor event or a virtual event, if necessary. Most likely, due to distancing, graduates will be limited on the number of family members who can attend any live graduation ceremony. HHS will communicate any decisions regarding graduation to seniors and their parents first.
- **Summer camps** - at this time, summer camps through our Community Ed program are still on. As with all scheduled events, however, we understand this could change.
[LINK TO OUR SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE](#)

Instructional Support

[LINK TO OUR LEARN@HOME RESOURCE PAGE](#)

- **Dual Language Program Applications are now being accepted.** Hutto ISD is accepting applications for students interested in participating in the dual language program (DALE) during the 2020/2021 school. This program is a fantastic opportunity for your child to become bilingual and bi-literate in Spanish and English. Students must be entering kindergarten during the 2020/2021 school year to be eligible. Applications may be submitted on-line through May 3. Please see the [web page](#) for more information by clicking on the DALE links or email Anna Moreno. (anna.moreno@huttoisd.net)

Grading

[LINK TO GRADING DURING COVID SHUTDOWN](#)

- The Hutto ISD School Board approved a district grading policy on April 9. This policy is our way of valuing the learning going on at home while acknowledging the challenges teachers and students and parents face during these unprecedented times. Please use the link above to read in more detail and the rationale behind the decision making. Some highlights of that policy include:
 - The spring semester will not count for high school class rank and GPA.
 - Middle school and high school students will receive a grade for the 5th six-weeks based on their grades as of March 13 (last day before spring break). Teachers have the option of raising the grade of a failing student if they feel the grade is not an accurate assessment of the student's academic standing.

- Students will receive a pass, incomplete, or fail on assignments. Students will only get a failing grade if a teacher and administrator have worked with the family to accommodate their individual situation and the student continues to make no reasonable attempt at completing assignments.
- Teachers will continue to work with parents to provide as much flexibility as possible in light of each family's unique set of circumstances.

Health and Safety

[LINK TO COUNSELING AND OTHER HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES](#)

- We have gathered contact information on community resources if you have a family member or know of someone having a mental health crisis. They are contained within this link [Community Resources during COVID-19](#)
- **#WilcoUnited** - Superintendents from around Williamson County have united to remind students and parents that mental health resources are available.
[LINK TO VIDEO OF DR. THOMAS](#)
- **Hutto Fire Rescue Community Connect** - HFR has rolled out a new voluntary platform that helps them focus on protecting residents and their property in the most effective way possible during an incident or major disaster. **HUTTO COMMUNITY CONNECT** is now available for Hutto Community residents to create household profiles and begin using the service.
[LINK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HUTTO COMMUNITY CONNECT](#)

Transfer Requests

- For non-employee children looking to transfer within or to Hutto ISD, we are working on an online system for families to apply for a transfer and pay the application fee. For those who cannot access online, we will have an alternative mail-in system. Please look for more information next Tuesday, April 28, in this weekly email.

Pre-K and Kinder Registration

- All Pre-K and Kinder registration dates have been canceled for the month of April and May.
- We are developing a system of online registration to the greatest extent allowable by state law. This will allow the majority of children to be registered and assured of a spot. There will be some cases that will require some face-to-face contact that may have to take place by appointment during the summer months. We will have more information on this process next Tuesday, April 28, in this weekly email.

Austin Area Job Opportunities

- We understand many of our parents may be facing job losses or cutbacks. The Austin Chamber has a website of Austin area companies who have opportunities:
<https://www.austinchamber.com/blog/austin-job-opportunities-covid-19>

FREE Resources

Thank you to Hutto ISD parent and Hutto Education Foundation board member Heather Merz for sharing this great list of free resources!

- **FITNESS** - [Online Workout Videos](#) for those of you that miss the gym or workout classes you can access free classes for a limited time (including Orange Theory Fitness, 24 Hour Fitness, CorePower Yoga and MORE).
- **MEDITATION** – [InsightTimer](#) is the best meditation app with the world's largest FREE library of more than 30k guided meditations, 5k teachers & the world's most loved meditation timer.
- **KIDS AT HOME** – [This website](#) offers an extensive list of resources for kids of ALL ages – coloring pages, worksheets, math practice, music classes, etc.
- **RESTAURANTS** – [This list](#) provides details on restaurants offering pickup and delivery + family deals in Round Rock, Pflugerville, and Hutto.
- **ENTERTAINMENT** – Books, Movies, Magazines! The how-to access details can be found [HERE](#).

Questions

If you have questions about anything not found in our communications or website, please address them to coronavirus@huttoisd.net. We will respond to them as we are able.