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Dear St. HOPE Families and Scholars,

I hope that you are doing well and continuing to stay safe and healthy. I know that this continues to be a hard time for our entire country and that the pending start of a new school year is at the top of everyone's mind. The decision of how to reopen school is one that we take very seriously at St. HOPE. We miss our scholars and are eager to have them back on campus as soon as it is safe to do so. We have been working hard all summer to prepare for a safe and smooth opening to the new school year. We have continued to monitor all of the updates from local and state officials as they pertain to COVID-19 and school reopening, while also spending significant time collaborating with our stakeholders to inform our decision-making process.

St. HOPE staff have worked through the summer to fully prepare for our schools to reopen in August in either a virtual model or an in-person model with all appropriate safety and social distancing measures in place. As we all know by now, the coronavirus is a rapidly changing situation, which means that guidance and mandates are constantly changing as well. But we are staying nimble and responsive, and are ready to provide an excellent learning experience for our scholars and their families no matter the format.

Today, the Sacramento County Office of Education in collaboration with the Sacramento County Health Department released updated guidance stating that schools in Sacramento County should open with a Distance Learning Model for August and September. This guidance is a result of county-wide data that illustrates an increase in the community spread of the coronavirus along with deficits in the current testing system. These deficits would hinder our ability to receive sufficient, timely test results in the event that we had a member of our community exhibiting symptoms. **Therefore, we will be starting our 2020-2021 school year in an online/virtual teaching and learning environment - there will be no in-person classes when school begins on August 5.**

While the start of this school year will be unlike any in the history of St. HOPE, I am confident that we will find a way to make it impactful and successful for each and every one of our scholars. What will continue to set us apart even during these unprecedented times is our collective commitment to our mission. We will find new and creative ways to overcome the challenges we face and we will continue to lead our scholars in making meaningful progress on their journey to and through college. Our methods will change as a result of the current situation, but our mission will not. We will continue to put our scholars first and hold ourselves accountable to providing them with an excellent education.

Detailed information regarding our Distance Learning Program will be reviewed at orientation. Please see below for a reminder of when your scholar's orientation will be:

- Kindergarten - Saturday, August 1st at 9:00 at PS7E campus (Link will be emailed on Friday, July 31st)
- 1st Grade - Monday, July 27th at 4:30 at PS7E campus (Link will be emailed on Friday, July 24th)
- 2nd Grade - Tuesday, July 28th at 4:30 at PS7E campus (Link will be emailed on Monday, July 27th)
- 3rd Grade - Wednesday, July 29th at 4:30 at PS7E campus (Link will be emailed on Tuesday, July 28th)
- 4th Grade - Thursday, July 30th at 4:30 at PS7E campus (Link will be emailed on Wednesday, July 29th)
- 5th Grade - Saturday, August 1st at 10:30 at PS7E campus (Link will be emailed on Friday, July 31st)
- 6th Grade - Zoom Make Up Session on Monday, July 20 at 4:30 pm (link will be emailed on July 17)
- 7th Grade - Wednesday, July 29 at 5:00 pm via Zoom (link will be emailed on July 28)
- 8th Grade - Tuesday, July 28 at 5:00 pm at PS7 Middle School

- 9th Grade - Zoom Make Up Session on Tuesday, July 21 at 4:30 pm (link will be emailed on July 20)
- 10th Grade - Wednesday, July 29 at 5:00 pm via Zoom (link will be emailed on July 28)
- 11th Grade - Wednesday, July 29 at 5:00 pm via Zoom (link will be emailed on July 28)
- 12th Grade - Thursday, July 30 at 5:00 pm at Sacramento Charter High School

We all wish we could be starting school in person, in normal classroom environments on August 5, but at this time the Distance Learning model is necessary to best protect the health and safety of our entire St. HOPE community. As things continue to evolve, we will keep you updated on changes. We look forward to getting back on campus as soon as we can safely do so.

Sincerely,

Kari Wehrly