



Hope Hall

1612 Buffalo Road - Rochester, NY 14624

05/08/2020
(585) 426-0210

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Let me start by saying that this will be a fairly long e-mail, but it is filled with very important information, so we are asking you to read the whole thing and then save it for reference.

As you well know, the Governor has had to close all schools in the State because of COVID-19. As sad as this is, it is not only the right decision, it is a good decision. We know all too well, and have seen first hand, how quickly things such as colds or head lice spread through a class. If even one child came to school carrying the virus, every single one of us, and all in every family, would have to be quarantined for 14 days, unable to leave our homes for anything. And certainly worse than a quarantine, any of us at school, or in your homes, could get sick from the virus if your child has caught it and brings it home.

And so, we all have to get used to doing things differently for the next few months at least. Our teachers, our staff, our counselors, and the three of us, have all been working diligently to keep the children learning and the school afloat. We purchased 2 new programs so that the teachers could get as close to teaching the way we teach at Hope Hall as possible. The teachers and Administrators spent several hours being trained in how to use these programs. They have been having regular faculty meetings to discuss on-going concerns and share ideas. Teachers and Administrators, and Counselors have had weekly grade level meetings, Primary (grades 2-5), Middle School (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) to discuss needs of the students that come up each week, plan, and share "best practice" ideas. There have been "zoom" classes and meeting with students, and so much more.

I say all of this because school has been continuing, even if its shape has looked different. Our faculty, Staff, and Administrators have actually been working harder since March 16th than if we were in school, because in school, we had our plans and presenting the class content in hands-on ways was familiar and easy for us to do. Insuring that your child is learning in this new "away time" has been very challenging.

We are sure that it has not been easy for you either. Trying to work from home, being sure that your child is accessing the work being sent to him/her, and in some cases, sharing computers with several members of the same family has certainly created stress for you.

We want to assure you that we get it, and if there is anything that you need us to do to help you, please reach out to us. In the meantime, here are some things we want you to know.

CRITICAL

1. We have had to cancel our experience Italy dinner, which raises \$15,000 for the school, and our Walk for Hope, which raises \$30,000. That means that this year's operating budget has taken a \$45,000 loss. Our teachers need, and deserve to be paid. If you have not yet paid your March, April, or May tuition, please send it in. Your child may not be physically in the school building, but your child is being educated and will receive credit for that education which will enable him/her to progress to the next grade in September, or receive a diploma if your child is a Senior.

2. Sr. Diana is in school every day from 9:00 until 12:30 to receive all mail. If you have not yet registered your child for school in the fall, we need you to do this right away. You can mail it, or drop it off, or, if you pull up to the school on Buffalo Rd. (across from the Gates Community Center), you can leave it in the purple tote that is outside the door by the flag pole. That tote serves as our mailbox. If you want to receive financial assistance

for tuition next year, your child must be registered, and the \$35 registration fee must be paid. Decisions about the financial aid will be made by early June, and only those students registered will qualify for the first round of tuition assistance funding.

3. Alicia Hart is working from home, but comes into school twice a week. She checks phone messages and e-mails daily. If you have any concerns or questions about tuition, registration fees, or financial aid for tuition, please call Alicia at 426-0210 X 110, or e-mail her at alicia.hart@hopehall.org

Alive and Hope-filled

4. We absolutely will have a graduation for our Seniors. It will not be "virtual". Our Seniors will put on their caps and gowns, walk down the aisle, march across the stage, and have one of our best graduations ever. They deserve that! We just don't know when this will be because it is hard to schedule anything at this point due to the limits of number of people who can come together, and the 6 ft. social distancing requirements. We will let everyone know when the date is set.

5.. We will absolutely have a Senior banquet for the Class of 2020. Again, when that will take place is yet to be determined.

Something New

6. We will have 2 Walks for Hope, one in the fall, and the traditional one in the spring. The one in the fall will be slightly different. We will still walk, we will still have a picnic, it will be a wonderful celebration of our coming together again as a Community, we will still have the fun and games for the students in the afternoon. The one thing that will be different is that we are NOT asking families to try to raise \$100 in sponsorships for the Fall Walk. The \$100 per child in sponsors will be for the Spring Walk. For the Fall Walk, we are asking each family to participate in the \$25 for 25 tile challenge. This is \$25 to celebrate our 25 years. For \$25, each family can purchase a 4 x 4" tile on which you can put anything you'd like, sort of like the bricks in the walkway. The tiles will be hand decorated by some of our teachers as well as some of our students. Students can try to get others to buy a tile for \$25 as well, and prizes will be awarded to students who get or sell 4 or more tiles. The only thing each family is being asked to contribute in September for the Fall Walk is \$25 for a tile. These tiles will all be mounted in the front hall of the school between the high school and the center wing.

7. We will be mailing a Newsletter out to each of you within the next couple of weeks. This is being called a "Spring Newsletter" because it will be for April, May, and June. Watch for it, and please let us know if one doesn't reach you by the end of May. You can call 426-0210 X 107 if you don't receive one.

8. Beginning the week of May 11th, Sr. Diana will be posting some Community meetings for the students, please feel free to participate with your child. Mrs. Droegmoeller will do one or two until her baby is born.

This is a lot of information, but it is all important for you to have and refer back to. The three of us are committed to continue working harder than ever to support you, your child, our teachers and staff in every way we can. Hope Hall, and who we are as a hope-filled Community, will not be destroyed by this virus. God knows what we need, and continues to help us. Of this we can be certain.

With gratitude and blessings for each of you and your families,

Sr. Diana, Jacelyn Droegmoeller, Emily McLean

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