



Good Morning Covenant Families and Staff,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

First, I wanted to thank you for praying for the school, the teachers and the administrators. We are faced with some difficult decisions as we navigate uncharted waters. Currently, there is significant information floating around, but we are seeking wisdom and discernment from God for Covenant's path forward; hence, we have been very prayerful and intentional in our approach to this situation.

Given recent announcements by the Department of Education, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all of whom suggest (in one way or another) that schools should not meet for 8 weeks and that gatherings should be limited to 10 participants or less, we have chosen to start distance learning next week for our students. Our hope is that after a few weeks of distance learning, Covenant would be able to transition back to normal schooling in April but that depends on the TEA and CDC. Distance learning allows our students to still receive curriculum instruction so that they do not fall behind and have to attend school through late June or July. It is a short-term measure that allows our students to continue their education. We can appreciate that distance learning has challenges, and we have been working through those logistics (for instance, bandwidth issues, students' time online, parents with multiple children, families with limited access to the internet, etc.). Our teachers are meeting this week and being trained to transition to distance learning. **I will provide an update on more specific details on Thursday, March 19th.**

The overall process will involve weekly interactive video sessions, faculty teaching through short videos, activities that can be done around the house but intentionally support the academic learning process, and homework packets being disseminated via a drive through pick up line or online. Our general timeline is that next Monday, Upper School students can drive through and pick up their books (we will have them packaged so families do not need to come inside the building). Tuesday, Lower School families can drive through and pick up their first learning packet. Wednesday, we officially kick off distance learning. Some teachers, however, will already be emailing students assignments this week, especially for Upper School. Since this is a new area for all of us, slight adjustments to the schedule may be necessary.

Upper School will be using the Google platform, with which students already have familiarity, while Lower School will be using Renweb. As we reviewed various platforms, our biggest concern is bandwidth. For example, many people have mentioned Zoom to me, but Zoom is already experiencing disruptions due to increased usage. Once major universities, like Texas A&M, start using it, bandwidth will become an even bigger issue.

Based on CDC and TEA guidelines, all Covenant events for March and early April have been cancelled. We will determine Traditions, Graduation, and Enrichment activities later. TAPPS has also suspended all athletic events through April 12.

Please continue to pray for the school, its teachers and the administrators for wisdom in our decisions. We appreciate your patience as we seek to move Covenant forward and educate our students.

Warm Regards,

Lorraine Hill