



Good Evening Covenant Parents and Staff,

Distance learning starts next week, so I wanted to provide further details on the process and our reasoning for doing certain things.

- **Overall Process:** The overall process will involve faculty teaching through short videos, optional weekly interactive video sessions, and homework/resource packets.
- **Faculty Teaching Videos:** Our faculty will record the teaching videos and upload them so that students can watch them whenever convenient. We chose pre-recorded lessons over live sessions because we realize that we have working parents that may not be able to have their students log in at specific times. Further, we are concerned that not all homes' internet connections will be strong, especially once businesses and many schools go on-line. If your family does not have internet or needs a computer, please let us know. We have limited computers that we can lend out to families.
- **Interactive Video Sessions:** Our faculty will host optional interactive video sessions because we feel that the social relationships between the teacher and student are still important. I would imagine our Lower School students would love to talk with their teachers, while some of our Upper School students may need extra tutoring help through the video sessions. These sessions are optional due to internet and bandwidth concerns for our families.
- **Homework/Curriculum Packets:** The initial curriculum packets and books were distributed today for Upper School and will be distributed tomorrow for Lower School. After that, the packets will primarily be on-line for health and safety reasons unless someone specifically requests a printed packet.
- **Principals and/or teachers will be emailing further details about your child's particular class in the next few days.**
- **Platforms:** Upper School will be using Renweb and the Google platform (and maybe YouTube), with which students already have familiarity. Lower School will be using Renweb and YouTube. Initially, our hope was that we could upload the teaching videos through Renweb for the Lower School, but we have encountered significant size and bandwidth issues. Thus, we will upload all the videos through YouTube with each grade having its own YouTube channel. Using Google and YouTube allows for easy use as students can access these platforms from a computer, iPad, and cell phone.
- **Starting Dates:** Distance learning will start on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> for our Upper School students and Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> for our Lower School students. As previously mentioned, we are beginning on different days to help those families who have multiple students at Covenant. We anticipate distance learning for at least two weeks through April 3 per the executive order just issued by Governor Greg Abbott who has officially closed both public and private schools in Texas (this does not include distance learning, nor limited staff working at schools). *To create excitement and fun on the first day, we would love for you to have your children dress up in their Covenant polo, take a picture, and post it on Facebook (#CovenantStrong).*

- **Website:** In an effort to provide you with as much information as possible, we are in the process of creating a webpage on the Covenant website which will include our school communications, Frequently Asked Questions, resources on the Coronavirus, and more.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me. We greatly appreciate your patience and flexibility during these challenging times.

Warm Regards,

*Lorraine Hill*