

# Wednesday Weekly

4/15/2020

## Principal's Note

Good evening.

Like you, I've seen today's announcement from Governor Lee recommending that schools close for the remainder of the school year. Though nothing has been released by Knox County Schools yet, I feel sure an announcement will come soon. I am saddened that I will not likely be able to see our students until August, and even more sad that I won't have the opportunity to interact with our Class of 2020 students again.

The likelihood of school closing until August brings forth even more questions. Do we continue to work online? How will grades be calculated? What about graduation requirements for seniors? Can we retrieve items we left at school? Yearbooks? Diplomas? Caps/gowns? Commencement? Prom? I assure you, all of these things are on our mind and we are having conversations with the central office personnel daily to develop plans. Schools may be closed, but work is happening at a frenzied rate for principals and central office personnel. I'm confident that we will have answers to at least some of these questions – especially regarding grades, online learning, & graduation requirements – before I email you next week, and I'm confident the answers you receive will be fair to our students.

In the meantime, it is apparent that in these tense times our community needs just that: The community. We fed over 700 children meals today, which is an increase over any week in the past. It highlights the need, but it is encouraging that students are not going hungry if they have the means to get a ride to the school. Nevertheless, I encourage you to check on your neighbors, call your friends, and enjoy this opportunity for pause. It was Albert Einstein who said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." These are difficult times, but many of us now have the rare opportunity to devote time and energy to those we care for most, and to those who need care the most.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Best regards,  
Mr. Long

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Friday Night Lights

To honor our spring student-athletes who had their seasons stripped away by no fault of their own, HHS will be following the trend set by several schools across the nation that have lighted their school stadiums at 8:20 for 20 minutes. To honor the Class of 2020, Halls High School will be participating in this on Friday, April 17 by turning on the athletic field lights at 8:20 for 20 minutes. It is heartbreaking that they cannot complete the task they set out to achieve athletically, but hopefully this homage eases the pain and honors their efforts.

\*We will have our facilities closed to foot traffic, and we ask that students/families do not try to enter the facility or congregate in the parking lots.

## Drivers Permit Information

Students needing the Driver's Permit form to take to the DMV can request it using this form while school is closed. <https://forms.gle/uS2a5fCai2GuaZNn6>.

These forms will be available for pick up on Monday mornings between 10 and 12 during food distribution. Only students taking the learner's permit test will need this form. Students obtaining a driver's license will not need the form.

For questions, contact Laura Kindle at [laura.kindle@knoxschools.org](mailto:laura.kindle@knoxschools.org).

## TSSAA Announcement

With the Governor's announcement of school closure for the remainder of the school year, all remaining TSSAA events for 2019-20, including all spring sports and the postponed state basketball tournaments, are cancelled. This is an unprecedented time across our state and country, and we do not make this decision lightly. We thank all of the participants, their coaches, administrators, parents, and everyone else who has dedicated a tremendous amount of time, passion, and effort to high school athletics, especially these affected events.

To our senior participants - we thank you for everything you have done for your schools and communities and wish you the very best in your bright futures. This is difficult, but the lessons you've learned and friendships you've made through high school activities will last your lifetime. We look forward to the resumption of high school athletics during the 2020-21 school year, and will continue work on those events at this time. The TSSAA thanks everyone involved for their patience and understanding throughout this process.

Information will be given to member schools regarding summer athletic activities in regards to the sports calendar at a date in the near future.

# Meals & "KCS at Home"

We will continue to serve food from 10-12AM on Monday and Wednesday next week. New "KCS at Home" packets for PreK-8 students will be distributed on Monday and Wednesday next week following the same traffic pattern that was used today.

Any high school student still needing a Chromebook should email Mr. Long at [spencer.long@knoxschools.org](mailto:spencer.long@knoxschools.org).

## AP Exam Updates

### Exam Dates

- Exams will be given from May 11–22.
- Makeup test dates will be available for each subject from June 1–5.
- Students can take exams at home or in schools, if they reopen.
- Each subject's exam will be taken on the same day at the same time, worldwide.

### Exam Format

- Most exams will have one or two free-response questions, and each question will be timed separately. Students will need to write and submit their responses within the allotted time for each question.
- Students will be able to take exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. They'll be able to type and upload their responses or write responses by hand and submit a photo via their cell phones.
- For most subjects, the exams will be 45 minutes long, plus an additional 5 minutes for uploading. Students will need to access the online testing system 30 minutes early to get set up.
- Certain courses—Art and Design: 2D; Art and Design: 3D; Computer Science Principles; Drawing; Research; and Seminar—will use portfolio submissions and will not have a separate online exam. All deadlines for these submissions have been extended to May 26, 2020, 11:59 p.m. ET. Teachers and students may receive separate course-specific communications.
- Students taking world language and culture exams will complete two spoken tasks consistent with free-response questions 3 and 4 on the current AP Exam. Written responses will not be required. We'll provide additional details in the coming weeks to help students prepare.

## TN State Board of Education meeting

The State Board met on April 9, and made many decisions which KCS will respond to within the coming days and weeks. Here is a link with the agenda transcript and video if you are interested in watching. <https://www.tn.gov/sbe/meetings/meetings-calendar/2020/4/9/april-9-2020-sbe-conference-call-meeting.html>

## Free reading material

Mrs. Hartsell, our school librarian, has put together this list of sources for free eBooks and audiobooks that students, parents, and teachers can access.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IHE8ih\\_0llz4v1rXxZtQ4FivWjYCeitKytvZjKnIXz4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IHE8ih_0llz4v1rXxZtQ4FivWjYCeitKytvZjKnIXz4/edit?usp=sharing)

## Cheerleading Tryouts

All cheer tryouts have been postponed at this time. A new date is still to be determined.

## Track and Football Field Use

As has been the long-standing tradition in this community, the track is accessible when school is not in session for walking and running. The turf football field; however, is only to be used by permission and reservation only. We appreciate your cooperation.



### April Senior Memo.pdf

Families of Seniors, please see the Senior Memo from the School Counseling Office.



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195.8 KB