

March 13, 2020

"Fear Not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." **Isaiah 41:10**

Blessings Hephatha Community,

Hephatha Lutheran administration, in conjunction with the Orange County Lutheran Schools Association, has made the decision to move to continuous learning plan for students through remote learning beginning **Wednesday, March 18th**. This distance learning model will occur for the foreseeable future. Students in the EC and Day School will **NOT** be reporting to class on March 16th or 17th. These days will be used as transition days for our academic model, and for parents to pick up learning materials.

Effective immediately all campus events, including athletics, field trips, and extracurricular activities, have been postponed until further notice. Further information will be shared today as to when students will be able to come on campus for textbooks, learning tools, and other materials that are pertinent to the education of your children.

This was not a decision that was made in haste, but one that unfortunately needed to be made. Mitigation efforts, such as the provision of online classes to facilitate social distancing are said to assist in reducing the disease caseload, thus keeping the healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution for our community, as well as the broader Orange County community, and with the approval and support of the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Hephatha has come to this very difficult decision.

While no cases of COVID-19 have been reported on our campus and our campus remains open, the safety of our students, their families, and our employees is our top priority; therefore, we have activated this response to limit the spread of the virus. This situation remains fluid and we will update you each week. At this time, we are not specifying a date of return.

As compared to our sister high schools moving to distance learning, there are certain challenges that come with the education of students aged 2-14 years. The Hephatha staff has been diligently working in utilizing technology modalities that will offer as limited of an education disruption as possible.

As a parent, your first questions may center on the following:

1. Our good and gracious Father has His guiding hands on this situation, scripture tells us of this. **"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength"** *Nehemiah 8:10*
2. The Hephatha family is a resilient one. A family that will come together collectively and overcome any of the challenges we face.

Look for further communication via email and social media in the upcoming hours and days. Specific learning plans will be shared leading into the weekend and at the start of the week. Additionally, SAC/PAC are evaluating avenues to continue childcare, in more LIMITED capacity, for families who are unable to provide childcare. More information will be available regarding SAC/PAC opportunities promptly.

Please reach out to the administration office with any further questions.

Eric Deyke



Principal
Hephatha Lutheran Church and School