



# HUDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS OF TECHNOLOGY

Office of the Superintendent: Week 3  
COVID19 School Closure Update 04-04-20

April 4, 2020

Dear HCST Community:

As we embark on our fourth week within HCST's virtual learning journey, I need to recognize the outstanding efforts of our dedicated families, students, faculty and staff. With the daily pressures from life's recent, unexpected changes, it is important for us to reflect on the many positive things happening within our HCST community.

## Continuity of Learning

The attendance and engagement of our students, faculty and support staff remain strong. HCST administrators, instructors and specialists meet regularly to ensure enhancement of our virtual learning environment. We continuously research online resources and share best practices to meet the diverse needs of our students. Together, we identify and address challenges, while embracing this new methodology of teaching as a viable means of instruction. We look forward to days ahead when we can incorporate these new practices into a blended learning environment.

## Spring Recess

HCST's Spring Recess will begin this Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, April 19, 2020. Virtual learning and instruction will not occur during this week. Our district encourages its members to take the opportunity to detach and "unplug", in an effort to renew our sense of living despite the recent disruptions to everyday life. I hope this time helps us to enjoy our blessings, reflect, recharge and revive the energy and commitment to return "to our virtual learning community" Monday, April 20, 2020.

## Planning Ahead

As a district, we recognize the importance of end-of-year activities...especially honoring our **Class of 2020**. Governor Murphy has emphasized that the decision to reopen schools will be based on information and advice from public health and safety experts, and in consultation with educators and school districts. *Only Governor Murphy has the authority to authorize the reopening of our physical schools.* Rest assured – HCST's school-level administrative teams are effectively planning with my office to provide our students a memorable end to a unique school year. Though we cannot yet confirm the "where" and "how", we have set our Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremonies for the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Each HCST school will send a follow-up to their student population for specific activities as directed by the State of New Jersey.

Telephone (201) 662-6700 ▪ One High Tech Way ▪ Secaucus, NJ 07094

### Mission Statement

The Hudson County Schools of Technology is a visionary community that inspires creative independent thinking through diverse learning opportunities

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HUDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS OF TECHNOLOGY NOT TO DISCRIMINATE IN EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AGAINST ANY PERSON BY REASON OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, AGE, SEX, AFFECTIONAL OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MARITAL STATUS, LIABILITY FOR SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR ATYPICAL HEREDITARY CELLULAR OR BLOOD TRAIT OF ANY INDIVIDUAL, IN EMPLOYMENT OR IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. FURTHER STATE AND FEDERAL PROTECTION IS EXTENDED ON ACCOUNT OF DISABILITIES, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC STATUS, PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, PREGNANCY RELATED DISABILITIES, ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL PARENTHOOD, OR FAMILY STATUS." Inquiries regarding affirmative action, discrimination (including Title IX requirements), sexual harassment or equity should be directed to: Alicia Abraham, Affirmative Action Officer/504 Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Hudson County Schools of Technology, Earl W. Byrd Center, Explore Middle School, Frank J. Gargiulo Campus, One High Tech Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094, 201-662-6724 or Email: aabraham@hastonline.org

## Staying Connected

- Support Services

We encourage all students to check-in regularly with their School Counselors/Case Managers. Team members are here to help our students navigate this new style of learning.

- Social Media

Our district has created a School Spirit Campaign through our social media outlets. During this time of distance learning, share with us how you're **exhibiting HCST pride from home**. Send us your pictures and short videos to be shared on our social media pages. We may be physically apart, but we're not alone. Let's show our community that we are **#HCSTstrong!**

**Please email** all #HCSTstrong submissions to our public relations facilitators:

Francis O'Keefe [fokeefe@hcstonline.org](mailto:fokeefe@hcstonline.org) cc Daniel Masoud [dmasoud@hcstonline.org](mailto:dmasoud@hcstonline.org)

Additionally, there are many examples of commendable work and virtual lessons that we wish to share with our community. Our faculty and staff have been requested to contribute their professional accomplishments as well as those of our students. Further, class advisors with their students are developing meaningful ways to remain connected and share positive highlights.

The HCST district-level and approved social media platforms are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @hcstonline.

- Communications to Home

**To ensure you are receiving the most up to date information from HCST:**

Visit our website [www.hcstonline.org](http://www.hcstonline.org) COVID-19 site for *Virtual Learning Resources & Support* page. There, you will find Educational Remediation Resources, PowerSchool and Tech Support guidance.

- Please *do not* block calls from 877-429-0238
- Please *do not* block emails sent via [spe.schoolmessenger.com](http://spe.schoolmessenger.com)
- Please **OPT-IN** to receive SMS alerts by texting Y to 67587
  - If you do not receive a text back from 67587 that you have been registered for SchoolMessenger notifications your **shortcode** option might be disabled through your wireless provider. Please contact your wireless provider and request to unblock **shortcodes**.

Times like these show the true nature of people. I am overwhelmed by the kindness, perseverance, creativity and flexibility our community has demonstrated during this pandemic. As always, remain **#HCSTstrong**.

Sincerely,



Amy Lin-Rodriguez, *Superintendent*

*Stay Healthy - Stay Connected*

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