



From The Desk of: John Anson Principal

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

I know this is a stressful time for you with all of the news media and information overload regarding the COVID-19 Corona Virus. Last week I sent you an update and I wanted to send you another one today.

First, we continue to be in touch with as many credible agencies and organizations as we can, including the AVUHSD, LA County Department of Public Health, the AV schools emergency planning group, quite a few others, and of course, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We continue to do what is best for the safety of your children, our teachers and staff and of course, our community. While there continues to be lots of rumors, as of 3:00 yesterday afternoon there remains no COVID-19 cases at any of the school in the Antelope Valley and not a single case at any school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

In the course of the past 24 hours this letter has changed from informing you of our contingency plan, implementing the training and practicing portion of our contingency plan, with LAUSD closing schools and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles following their lead, to implementing our contingency plan.

At the direction of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, effective Tuesday, the school will transition for the time being, to remote online e-learning. What that fancy phrase means is, we are going to ask you to keep students home beginning Tuesday and we are going to continue our high quality instruction using a combination of online Zoom classroom/meeting rooms and the Learning Management Systems (LMS) most of our teachers already use, Google Classroom or iTunes U beginning Wednesday March 18. We have created Zoom learning rooms for each teacher and the teachers will continue to teach live lessons. Students will attend class (from home). Students can ask questions, participate in discussions and in general, do almost everything they do now, but through Zoom. Teachers will distribute and collect handouts and papers via their LMS. Quality instruction will continue. Finally, time will be built into the schedule for teachers to be available after hours, in their zoom classrooms, for tutoring or questions. This will be much more than packets or just e-learning. The teachers have expressed their concerns for your child and their commitment to making sure your students continue to progress. We have worked for two weeks to prepare for this and we are almost ready, but do need time to make sure we prepare our ready. Our plan for next week is:

On Monday we ask you to send students to school to gather all their necessary belonging (iPads, textbooks, chargers, etc.). We will have shortened classes so teachers can deliver instructions to students and we will have training for students on how to use the Zoom app in their homeroom classes from 12:05-12:45.

Paraclete High School 42145 30th St. West Lancaster, CA 93550 (661) 943-3255

On Tuesday, teachers will prepare sample lessons and practice with one another, making sure they are comfortable teaching with Zoom, comfortable with answering both live and written questions during class and in general comfortable and confident they can deliver quality lessons.

On Wednesday and Thursday we will begin remote, e learning. We will teach those two days to perfect teaching remotely. This allows us to do many things – make sure our network can handle 40 simultaneous classrooms, make sure that teachers can work the system and that staff is available to trouble shoot. It also allows students to practice getting comfortable with Zoom from home and to try it out as well. We expect to begin the 4th quarter on Friday March 20th with remote e learning at least through March 31. We will continue to update you, via email and the school website.

We know this is a stressful time for you. We want to be able to continue to serve our students and families well. In the days to come we will build in a schedule with days for office hours and tutoring hours with teachers. Counselors will also be available and have Zoom rooms and we will have a schedule for their availability. We will do everything we can to make this a positive experience for everyone.

A few other miscellaneous items as well for your consideration:

1. Athletics – As you may have heard, the NBA, NCAA, MLS and indeed even the NHL have all postponed or cancelled their events. And when hockey players don't play, you know it is of concern. Both our gold Coast Athletic League and the Golden League have suspended their spring sports season. With no opponents, we will follow suit and postpone our spring sports season for now, until there is more clarity. There will be more to follow as things change.

2. School end of year events - The LA County Public Health folks are currently recommending cancelling all gatherings of greater than 250 people. This will surely become a concern as we come closer to our end of year senior events. I tremble to think of some of the possibilities, but please know we will communicate with you and make the best decisions possible for the wellbeing of everyone. We will begin to develop contingency for those events as we get closer to them.

We are so thankful for the opportunity work with you kids and are saddened by the possibility of having to find ways other than the classroom to teach. We are committed to continuing as personal an experience we can provide. Please continue to pray for our school, students and community. As Americans these difficult times tend to be when we are at our best. I look forward to these challenges and seeing the best of what our community has. Thank you