



Highlander Community,

Two positive cases of COVID-19 were identified at Lake Wales Senior High School this week. As a result, many staff members will have to be quarantine for two weeks. Because of these identified cases, we have determined, at this time, that online instruction will continue for the next two weeks. LWCS is diligently following CDC guidelines and working in consultation with the Florida Department of Health in Polk County as we work to mitigate the spread of this virus. The campus will undergo a deep cleaning, per CDC-recommended guidance, early next week. All staff will also be instructing from home until this has taken place. At this time, all teachers are ready to continue to teach online.

In order to make the best of this situation, we will be issuing more Chromebooks and Wifi Hot Spots to help families; the days and times will be published by Sunday. Students who are on the Federal Lunch Program may pick up lunch from 12:00-1:00 each day; pick up will be in front of the school. Please contact our Social Worker, Meghan Balliett, if you need help with a family situation. I will be sending a survey to all families to understand your thoughts on the online instruction; this will enable us to tweak what we need or stay the course. All sports and band activities may continue just like this past week; please, speak with your coaches/director to know the schedule. The success of this depends upon students following the CDC guidelines. In addition, Little Highlander will remain open during the next two weeks. Our front office will be closed for deep cleaning Monday and Tuesday; if needed, please contact us at 678-4222. We will reopen on Wednesday at 8:00.

We were eager for your return, but nature had another idea about our start date. We miss our students and are looking forward to their return, but we are committed to making the learning environment on campus as safe and healthy as possible. I will tell you that the educators on this Ridge will do everything possible to make this work. So, if we stay the course, we will be targeting September 14th as the new on campus start date. Just so you know, I happened to be in quarantine as well, but will be working from home and trying to get us back as soon as possible.

Please contact our school or consult our web pages/social media accounts for additional information about our health and safety procedures. We continue to encourage everyone to follow best practices to prevent the spread of the illness.

With respect, DDunson