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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Schools Begin Digital Learning via Google Classroom April 6



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA –With schools closed due to COVID-19, teachers in the Houston County School District will begin delivering instruction to K-12 students via Google Classroom on April 6, 2020. Teachers will use this digital learning platform to provide their classroom students with learning objectives, assignments, and assessments.

Students and parents are receiving information by their student's school email or through regular classroom communication tools, such as Edmodo and Class Dojo. Instructions and a video are posted to the [district](#) and school websites.

As of Monday, April 6, parents are asked to ensure that their K-12 student(s) log on to Google Classroom to participate in classes, receive assignments and teacher feedback, and to take assessments. To access Google Classroom, students may use any device that can access the internet. They may connect to Classroom with a cell phone, iPod, iPad, Xbox, PlayStation, desktop computers, and Mac computers.

For families with limited technology and/or internet service, the District is offering alternate methods of instruction to ensure that all students have access to a quality education. This includes providing a limited number of Chromebooks for those without a device with internet connectivity, resources to obtain internet service and printed learning packets.

High school principals notified their families on March 30 about the opportunity to check out a Chromebook to use for school during the closure. High School students and students with disabilities (SWD) whose families are without a device that connects to the internet are being given the first option to sign out a device this week. The Chromebook allows access to Google Classroom and limited access to other learning sites. The devices have the same security filters used at school, to include disabled video gaming and streaming. One Chromebook will be allowed per family for those families without a device to connect to the internet, beginning with high schoolers and SWD.

In addition, for families without internet service, the district is providing information about free and discounted offers available in the area, and schools are offering to print learning packets. Elementary and middle school principals will contact their families to communicate how to request and obtain learning packets made available at each school. The packets will include a flyer on the internet service options, for those who are interested.

For more information on Google Classroom, please visit <https://www.hcbe.net/googleclassroom> for high school and SWD, or <https://www.hcbe.net/googleclassroomk8> for elementary and middle school.

Prior to April 6, the district has provided [eLearning resources online](#) and teachers have communicated with families through the digital tools typically used at school. Pre-K children will continue to receive support from their teachers through the regular school communication tools such as Class Dojo, Edmodo, text and email, as well as transitioning to Google Classroom.

For more information, please visit the website, www.hcbe.net. Any parent or student with a question is encouraged to contact their teacher(s).

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