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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

We are thankful for the supportive and caring parents we have in our school district and appreciate your concerns about your child's health and education. To ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, we continue to work closely with the Department of Public Health and the North Central Health District regarding COVID-19.

After much discussion and based on the current situation in Houston County, our schools across the district are open. We are following our normal attendance protocols for all students, faculty, and staff. However, with the health and safety of our students as our primary concern, we have made some changes to our extracurricular activities.

As of Monday, March 16, all games and field trips have been suspended until further notice. Any field days and other special events which were scheduled between March 16 and 27 have been postponed. Extracurricular activities that involve only our students on their campus will continue, such as practices.

Our schools continue to practice measures to prevent the spread of germs, based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations. This includes:

- teaching students good handwashing techniques, to wash with soap and water for at least 2- seconds, or the time it takes to sing the ABCs song;
- reminding students and staff of proper respiratory etiquette, to cough or sneeze into their elbow, or to use a tissue and place immediately in the trash;
- teaching students to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth;
- staying home when sick until fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours;
- avoiding close contact with people who are sick; and
- encouraging parents to clean frequently touched objects and surfaces - to includes coats and backpacks.

Thank you for your help in reinforcing CDC guidelines at home and your support as we all work together to keep our students safe and healthy.

Our district will continue to monitor and follow information and guidelines for schools from the Center for Disease Control, the Georgia Department of Public Health, North Central Health District, and the Georgia Department of Education. Safety is our number one priority!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Scott, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Houston County School District