

I'd like to start by expressing my appreciation for your kind words of encouragement and support for Arcadia's staff and their efforts in preparation to launch our e-Learning model tomorrow. It has certainly been an undertaking for all of us. I am proud of my teachers, their efforts, and their commitment to ensuring that teaching and learning continues for our students during this unprecedeted time. I know that there will be trials and tribulations along the way, and I am anxious to watch us all overcome them. Please be patient as we learn to teach both core content and electives in an entirely digital environment.

The most current source of information throughout SUSD can be found at www.susd.org

To be sure that you are aware, school closures have been extended through Friday, April 10. We will utilize our e-Learning model throughout that time frame. During this time, Food services will continue throughout SUSD. The most current information regarding food services can be found at:

https://www.susd.org/cms/lib/AZ50000436/Centricity/ModuleInstance/50/2020_03_20_Scottsdale%20Unified%20Experiments%20Free%20Meals%20for%20Children%20to%20Additional%20Sites.pdf

Technology devices will again be made available to students tomorrow, March 23. Should additional opportunities be needed based on demand at the distribution sites then SUSD will announce those opportunities. The most current information regarding device distribution and technology support can be found at:

<https://www.susd.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=50&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=8499&PageID=1>

As we launch e-Learning through Scottsdale, teachers have been working towards the ability to effectively teach and check for student progress in an online model. The majority of Arcadia teachers will be utilizing Google Classroom which was already in place in many Arcadia classrooms. Other teachers will be utilizing a similar platform, Microsoft Teams. Students will utilize their SUSD gapps (Google Apps) login to access instruction and assignments. Our students should all know their username and passwords. Students in need of username and password for the "gapps" account should contact their teachers who know the password structure for students. The basic structure is as follows:

Username = first name initial, last name, then last two digits of student id number
Ex: tstevens41 would be my username if my ID# ended with 41.

Password = birth date...two digit month, two digit day, four digit year
Ex: 08062011 would be the password if my birth date was August 6, 2011

Students are expected to access their accounts, engage with the lessons, and submit work in each of their classes. In this e-Learning model, accessing lessons and completing work is not time bound. Students can access each of their classes at any point throughout the day or night. The only part of our e-Learning model that is in real time will be teacher virtual "office hours." Teachers have been asked to set aside an hour per day that they are available to have live video meetings or live chat sessions for their students with questions or who need support. Outside of the office hours, students have the ability to work based on their schedule. There will be due dates, and students need to be mindful of those. As this is new to all of us, I would encourage you to help your student develop a schedule or routine that works effectively based on their own needs, as well as your ability to help monitor their progress.

In our e-Learning model, teachers have been asked to do a number of things. In addition to the office hours referenced above, teachers have been asked to do the following:

1. Plan and present two lessons (as a general guideline) each week. This should come with two assignments as well as some sort of an assessment (quiz, test project, etc.).
2. Post grades to StudentVue at least once per week.
3. Send an automated email each week to families which includes their StudentVue progress report in their class.
4. Work with administration and counselors if students are not accessing class and/or completing work.
5. Continue to grow their own capacity in e-Learning to best support our students.

Teachers were asked to reach out to students and families prior to the launch of e-Learning tomorrow. In these messages, you should have received teacher contact information, information about how students will access learning in their classes, and what their office hours are. If you haven't received office hours yet, please do not worry. Many teachers are working together to avoid conflicting office hours. In regards to each of the expectations above, please be patient as we begin this new process.

I have been asked by a number of people what I feel about student get-togethers and parties during the school closures. I have to say that while I understand the need for social interaction and fun, I also want to stop the spread of the virus and get back to school as quickly as possible. I believe that convening any large groups, including students, increases the potential for spreading the virus. With that in mind, I would suggest that student gatherings and parties not occur at this time.

In closing, difficult times often bring out the best in us. Similarly, the added stress and anxiety can also bring out the worst in us. As we all try to work to be the best version of us that we can be, I'd ask you to help eliminate all negative messages about the coronavirus (COVID-19). Unfortunately there have been some "bully" like behaviors popping up across America, particularly towards ethnic Chinese populations. The Arcadia that I know and love will not tolerate such treatment towards others in our community. Please help me eliminate any such messages that our students may hear. Rather, please share a positive message with your student regarding the current situation around the globe. Along those lines, William Shakespeare wrote *King Lear* during his quarantine for the Black Plague. I wonder what greatness we will all create during this period. I will do all that I can to be a positive addition to our world, and I have faith that you will do the same.

I wish your student the best as we launch e-Learning tomorrow.

Please find copy and pasted below my signature line the message sent to the Arcadia Student Body by their President, Charlie Siegel. It is powerful, and I could not be more proud of him and his leadership.

Professionally,

Todd Stevens
Principal - Arcadia

Charlie Siegel's message to the Arcadia Student Body:

Dear Arcadia Student Body,

Our generation is currently living through history: a global pandemic that none of us could have ever predicted, and the ensuing chaos. Our lives have already begun to change drastically but more change is yet to come. The last few months of this school year will not be what any of us would have hoped for, especially not for the class of 2020. The situation and things that we are going to overcome are tragic, and as a part of student government, we have been working to create every end of the year event that will likely not occur. However, we will all come out of this as stronger individuals because of what we all will endure and sacrifice during these times, but we all must make these sacrifices.

To help combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus we need to listen to authorities and do our part. I am guilty of starting out with the mindsight that this will not have an effect on me but that is not true at all. By continuing our lives like nothing is wrong we are not only helping the spread but also putting ourselves at risk. The virus is starting to affect younger and younger people and even though you may survive you may live with scarred lung tissue that will affect you for the rest of your life. I encourage everyone to practice social distancing, say no to your friends, and say no to that party. We are the most virtually connected generation so let's utilize our many platforms to stay in touch in different ways. We have to remember that this is not an extended break. The school year is continuing, just alternatively.

Make the best of this time and while we all will be making the difficult adjustment to online school we have to remember that it is not just us. Our teachers are struggling too and it is teachers and students all over the world that are going through this together. But also, take the extra time to do things you have always wanted to do. Start a sketchbook or a journal, paint a picture, or maybe learn a language or learn to code online. There are so many things that we can do with our time and who knows what we might create. Most importantly, we need to bear with all of your teachers as these changes are being made and stay strong because we are all in this together.

Lastly to my seniors, this is probably one of the saddest things that could have happened to our class. So many things have been ripped away from us and we will not have the opportunity for a do-over. Unfortunately, all we are able to do is roll with the punches and accept what may come. Maybe by May we will have our graduation and maybe we won't, however, we can not let that define our attitudes. We all have worked so hard to get to where we are today and regardless of what happens, we are the class of 2020 and we will be stronger, wiser, and better than any other graduating class. We will still graduate and go off to do amazing things, so in the midst of the chaos stay strong and we will weather the storm together. We may not be getting the senior year we dreamed of and saw in movies but our experience will be unique to us and make us better for it. I want all of us to remember that this is still our year and that no matter what we have made amazing memories within the walls of Arcadia and at the end of the day we are all Titans. We all need to finish strong and get over this crazy bump in the road. Let's all stay focused and dedicated, and support each other through this hectic time. We will all get through this and come out the other side as stronger individuals. I hope we can all be back with our Arcadia family soon.

Sincerely Your Student Body President,
Charlie Siegel