

Dear Hillview Families,

Thank you for hanging in there with us as we conclude our first week of Distance Learning. We are learning along with you as we adjust to new routines, new tools, and a new mode of learning. Your feedback - both positive and constructive - is helping us evaluate the experience. On the plus side, families have lauded our preparation, communication, and quick transition to Distance Learning. The pain points have been feeling overwhelmed by the volume of communication, spending extensive time on work and on screens, and some challenges with technology. These pressures have been felt not just by students, but by teachers as well.

As we began this adventure, our goal was to do “business as usual, only virtually.” Quickly, we are realizing that we need to make adjustments so that Distance Learning is sustainable for everyone, especially during this unprecedented public health crisis that is turning our lives upside down and impacting us in many ways.

To this end, we are asking ourselves how to make teaching and learning more manageable. This may look like fewer daily assignments, and a week-long project instead; this “dialing back” will look different in every class. Also please note that there are classes that will need to continue at a more usual pace: advanced math pathways and high school-level courses are ones where we want to ensure the students have the proper foundation to be successful next year and beyond. Overall, our focus is shifting to sustainability and supporting everyone’s health and well being, and we invite you to adopt a similar mindset. We will continue to be flexible.

A few more updates:

- Students and parents alike have asked for some tools for collaboration. We have decided to give students the ability to use the Google Meet App as a way to reach out to each other and connect and collaborate. We need to update the permissions and provide some tutorials. Expect this early next week.
- Our [Distance Learning Resources webpage](#) has expanded to include a [“General Support” section](#) curated by our Counseling department. Here you will see helpful articles and resources for families, organization and time management suggestions, apps to support mental health, and more.
- Finally, if you would like to share any positive feedback with us, we have created a Google form called [HV Kudos “on the DL”](#) where you can let us know those bright spots. We will pass these along and share the love. You can continue to give us constructive feedback at HVDL@mpcsd.org.

We acknowledge that there’s a lot going on for everyone right now, and we want you to take care of yourselves and do what makes the most sense for your family. We are here for you and are working to continue to provide you with engaging learning, a comforting routine, and connection. And related to connection, [please see this helpful article](#), which reminds us that during this pandemic, relational connection is more important than ever.

All the best,

The Hillview Team