



Home Communicator

HUDSONVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CHALLENGING MINDS AND LIVES FOR CHRIST



April 21, 2020

Let's talk about diamonds. It's hard to resist the simple beauty of these brilliant, sparkling gemstones. Diamonds, however, don't start out being gorgeous. The process actually takes a very long time. A chunk of black carbon, nearly one hundred miles below the surface of the earth, needs to endure blistering heat and tremendous amounts of pressure in order to incredibly transform into a diamond that can be cut and shaped into a singularly beautiful creation.

With that bit of information in mind, I have a few questions for you. Do these days seem to be taking a very long **time** for some of you? Without our normal schedules and activities, it can feel like the days are stretching on and on right now. The uncertainty makes us wonder just how long this way of life will continue. Are you feeling the **heat**? Perhaps not literal heat (it's hard to feel that when it's snowing), but how about that feeling you get when you're in an extremely uncomfortable situation? Are you under a tremendous amount of **pressure** right now? Are you working more than normal as an essential worker? Are you facing financial struggles because of loss of work? Are you feeling the weight of worry about a loved one who is sick? Are you feeling the pressure of helping your children keep up with schoolwork and knowing what to do with your kids every day? I can imagine we are all feeling at least some of these things.

I can't help but think of the lyrics of the song *Diamonds* by Hawk Nelson. I hope you'll take a moment to look it up and listen to it. These words continue to pop into my head lately:

*Oh the joy of the Lord
It will be my strength
When the pressure is on
He's making diamonds*

(CCLI 1597619 © Forest for the Trees Music, written by Jason Ingram,
Jonathan Steingard, Matt Bronleeve)

Friends, the pressure is on. God is shaping us and changing us through this time, heat, and pressure. He is transforming us into something strong and beautiful.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

Trusting in Him,

Tricia Kiepert
Elementary Principal

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

Remote Learning - You will find school wide updates, grade level lessons and other resources to continue remote learning on our [school website](#).

School Building Access -

1. Parents may come to school to pick up work packets (both for elementary AND middle school) provided you have been notified by teachers that packets are available - NOT all teachers will provide work packets.
2. Work packets (both for elementary **AND** middle school) will be in boxes/in piles on tables in the outer lobby of the central office in the elementary building. They will be labeled with the teacher's name and grade.
3. Parents will not be allowed into the rest of the building.
4. Parents may not bring children with them into the outer lobby.
5. Strict adherence to the social/physical distancing is expected; this is not a time to reconnect and socialize.
6. If you have health concerns, are at risk, have been around people who may be exhibiting symptoms, and/or not feeling well, please wear a mask.

We are waiting until May to allow parents into the main buildings to empty lockers and desks hoping guidelines are less restrictive by that time. IF you absolutely need something in order for your child/children to complete schoolwork, please email the school and we will make arrangements.

Walk-a-thon on Friday, May 1 - Yes!!! The Walkathon will still be taking place! The Walkathon is always a wonderful community event - a time to get together and celebrate HCS. While we cannot be physically together this year, the Walkathon Committee is making plans so we can safely join together as a virtual community. We hope you are able to join this virtual event! An email went out last week about how to set up or update your Everyday Hero account. Please continue to collect pledges. We will be leaving the Everyday Hero account open until June 15. Stay tuned for the details that will allow people to reach out to our community for the Walkathon on May 1.

End of Year Events - We are disappointed that the end of the year events will either need to be held in different ways and at different times or will be cancelled. The Leadership Team continues to meet and discuss and we will keep you informed of the decisions made regarding these events.

Grade 8 Play Performances - Due to the closing of our school building for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year, we will unfortunately be unable to hold the performances of our Grade 8 play. An email was sent to all HCS families with a link to the videotaped performance the cast was able to complete before our school closure in March. We hope you are able to enjoy this together as a family. The middle school office will be able to return your ticket purchase amount; however, if you are willing, we will gladly accept this money as a donation to offset the incurred costs of the play production. The office and the play ticket committee have some records of those who purchased tickets, but we would appreciate that if you wish to have a refund, please email the middle school office (msoffice@4hcs.org) with your name and the number of tickets you purchased. Parents of cast members if you would like a refund for the cast party please let us know that in an email as well. We will work to return your money in a timely manner. Thank you!

TRIP On Demand (TOD) during school closure:

- Email your TOD order to triphcs@4hcs.org
- TOD orders will be filled at 10:00 am on Mondays and Thursday
- You will receive an email confirmation when your order is ready for pick up
- Pick up TOD orders from administrative office from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday
- Please have your check ready upon arrival
- TOD orders remaining after 7 days will be considered abandoned and returned to inventory.

Online Orders (ShopWithScrip.com) during school closure:

- Deadline for ordering is 11:59pm Sunday
- Orders will be available for pick up by 9:00am on Wednesday
- Pick up Online orders from administrative office from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday

Scheduled Orders (green paper form) during school closure:

- Drop off by 3:00pm on Friday or email order to triphcs@4hcs.org
- Orders will be available for pick up by 9:00am on Wednesday
- Pick up orders from administrative office from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday

When entering the building for TRIP pick up:

- Strict adherence to the social/physical distancing is expected
- If you have health concerns, are at risk, have been around people who may be exhibiting symptoms, and/or not feeling well, please wear a mask.

Free Meals for all Ottawa Area Students - [This link](#) will take you to a page listing the school district sites where meals can be obtained. This link is updated on a regular basis. If you don't need to take advantage of this offer but know someone who does, please pass along the information.

You can also get groceries from Love INC. [Access this link](#) to find the emergency food pantry locations and times they are operating.

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Kids' Corner Enrollment is Now Open for the 2020-2021 School Year! - [Forms](#) are available in the main office or you can sign up online using this form: [Kids' Corner Enrollment Form](#). Sign up soon to ensure availability! If you have any questions, email Julie Moes at jmoes@4hcs.org or kidscorner@4hcs.org.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Summer Tutoring - A list of available teachers can be found outside the door of each office or [on our website](#).

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 6 and Grade 7 Parents - Please check your email for a link to a form to register your child in the music selections for their 2020/2021 school year. The email was sent on March 30 to all current grade 6 and grade 7 parent emails. You are asked to complete this form by Thursday, April 30. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Grade 8 Parents - Please know that the Leadership Team will continue to meet and talk about all of the different end of the year events for school. We continue to generate ideas based on the ever-changing situation and guidelines. Until an understanding of the state and CDC guidance on large gatherings, as well as the time frame, we are gathering ideas but cannot commit to anything at this point. We will do everything we can to commemorate their graduation and time at HCS! We will stay in touch!

PARENTS CLUB NEWS

Room Parents Needed for Next Year - Are you interested in volunteering in your child's classroom? Consider being a Room Parent! Room Parents coordinate class parties, help with field trips, help with Teacher Appreciation Week and serve the assigned teacher with their specific volunteer needs. For consideration, please fill out the [Room Parent Volunteer Form](#) 2020-2021 School Year. Room Parents will be assigned over the summer and you will be notified via email if you are selected.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Calvin Soccer Camp - The Calvin Soccer Camp offers an exceptional camp experience for every participant and is designed for players of various ages and ability levels. The Day Camp will run June 15-19 and the Elite Camps will run July 11-14 & July 15-18. For more information and to enroll online, visit www.calvinsoccercamp.com.

Hope College Summer Science Camps - Join us for another exciting summer of camps! Summer Science Camps started over 20 years ago with Tod Gugino's dream of sharing the love for science. ExploreHope provides innovative, fun-filled educational camps for grades K-12. For more information visit hope.edu/explore.

CALENDAR

May 1	Walkathon
May 21	Ascension Day
May 25	Memorial Day
June 4	Last Day of School
June 5	Report Cards Posted

QUICK LINKS

- [Kids' Corner Handbook](#)

- [Preschool \(3School/4School/NB 4School\) Handbook](#)
- [Middle School Handbook](#)
- [HCS Parent Handbook](#)
- [2019-2020 School Calendar](#)
- [Summer Tutors](#)
- [2020-2021 Room Parent Volunteer Form](#)
- [Kids' Corner Mail-In Enrollment Form 2020-2021](#)
- [Kids' Corner Online Enrollment Form 2020-2021](#)