Dear Hopkins Families:

We’re at the end of week two of our strange new reality. You made it! That’s not to say it’s been easy. Each of us is experiencing this current reality in our own unique way, and we’re also in it together. Although it barely feels like it, this is the Friday before spring break. Despite travel and even staying local plans being disrupted, we hope you are able to rest and take care of yourself over the next week -- we are all in need of a collective deep breath.

Because of spring break, Hopkins will begin its Distance Learning plan on April 6. Distance Learning will continue until May 5. Whether it extends longer than that will come from the governor. We know you may have questions about this new style of learning -- across the nation, we're all navigating ambiguous and unprecedented space.

Here are a few Distance Learning items to know:

- **Distance Learning Plan**: Teachers have been working very hard on developing Distance Learning for their students. Our Hopkins District Learning Plan is a comprehensive and evolving document that guides our teachers’ work. Before next Friday, April 3, you will hear from your principal in partnership with our Innovation, Design & Learning department who will share specific information about how to access and begin Distance Learning for your student. All PreK-12 students will access Distance Learning via a landing page on our district’s website. The purpose of the landing page is to center all Hopkins families around a common space where students can find daily Distance Learning from their teachers.

- **Week One**: The first week of Distance Learning will primarily focus on reestablishing relationships with students and building two-way partnerships with families. There may be some academic content introduced, however Hopkins educators believe establishing relationships and building routines are important areas to focus in on. It will take time to get into a new routine, and that’s okay. Also, establishing relationships deepens learning; therefore, this is a foundational step.

- **Daily Learning**: During Distance Learning, daily participation and attendance will be required. There will be a daily set of learning expectations for your student. And, our commitment to flexibility will hopefully ease any worries or fears students may be experiencing during this pre-distance learning period.

- **Where and When**: Establish a physical space where your child will do school work, and a specific time frame during the day when your student will work. Also, sort through the materials that were sent home last week and make sure devices
are charged. Ensure your child has a flat surface, paper, writing utensils, and anything else needed for learning.

- **Practice:** Access the [Enrichment Activities](#) linked to our district website in order to practice Distance Learning. Learning at home will involve both high-tech and tech-light learning experiences. If you are in need of a consistent Internet connection, here are some resources that may be helpful. If your device is not functioning and troubleshooting tips don't work, you may call 952-988-4111.

Beyond Distance Learning, there are other things you may need or want to know during spring break. Some of those items may include:

- **Student Meals:** Hopkins Public Schools is committed to supporting our families during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. FREE meals for children ages 1-18 years will continue to be available. The Nutrition Services department is working on a survey for meal service between April 6-10. Families should expect to receive an email on Monday afternoon to pre-order meals for that week.

- **Meal Pickup for Spring Break Week:** If you pre-ordered a meal for the week of spring break, please pick it up Monday at your selected school location. Nutrition staff will greet you curbside in front of the school. In order to follow health guidelines for social distancing please adhere to the schedule below - if possible:
  - **If your last name starts with A-L,** please pick up meals from 10:00-11:00 a.m
  - **If your last name starts with M-Z,** please pick up meals from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m
  - **If you requested Critical Need Meal Home Delivery,** please be available between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. District Volunteers will deliver meals to your home. Have your phones on in case they need to contact you. Someone must be home to receive the meal delivery. If you prefer not to have any contact for your safety or the safety of the delivery person, please leave a note on your door with the directions to leave on the doorstep.

- **Child Care:** Child care for children ages 4-12 will be available to parents who are emergency workers and Hopkins Public Schools staff who are required to physically report to work during spring break and for the duration of school closure. Hours: 6:30 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Children will be served breakfast, lunch, and a snack. The daily fee for the week of spring break is $40. [Please register online](#).

- **Stress/Anxiety:** The COVID-19 global pandemic is an unprecedented challenge, which can cause increased worry, stress, anxiety, and confusion for students and adults alike. Hopkins Public Schools would like to support parents and caregivers with the following resources:
  - [Tips for helping your kids cope](#) during the outbreak
Please know we are here for you. As you prepare for Distance Learning, you have the entire Hopkins Public Schools system behind you ready to support, guide, troubleshoot and facilitate. We’re in this together!

In closing, we want you to know how much we miss seeing students every day. Hopkins Schools is a caring community. Again, we have resources should you need help or support – don’t hesitate to reach out. Please visit our website for resources as well as updates and information.

Be Well,

Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, Superintendent
Hopkins Public Schools