Dear EBHS Parents/Guardians:

I hope this finds you and your family doing well. I wanted to reach out and provide updates on several steps we have taken at EBHS in preparation for distance learning tomorrow.

Our teachers and administrators have been working diligently to implement a very thoughtful plan to ensure our students continue to be successful academically, socially and emotionally. Although not physically at EBHS, our staff is in daily communication and we are on track to successfully begin distance learning tomorrow. As a result of these efforts, robust Canvas classrooms continue to be expanded to ensure student learning will continue. Students will be greeted tomorrow with detailed announcements, rigorous learning material, activities, discussions, updated calendars and more. I am proud of the work our staff has done and confident that students will continue learning. In addition, our administrative team has been looking for ways to streamline the experience for our students. As a result, we have updated the schedule (see attached) for students to follow while at home. Classes will now begin at 9 AM, students will have two classes before lunch and two after lunch, and office hours will take place prior to classes.

The reason for set class times is because some work will be conducted in real time. Therefore, set class meeting time will allow students and staff to interact and not be double booked. Yet, some of the work will not require real time interactions. Students will have the flexibility to work at their pace to complete assignments, discussions, read, watch videos, etc. I did remind the students in my podcast that attendance will be monitored, and some work will be graded. Each teacher will be communicating this on Monday through an announcement or email. Finally, as a staff, we understand this is a new situation for everyone and flexibility will need to be exercised at times.

I have also been in regular communication with our students and will continue to do so. As young adults, I think it is important they are up to date with what is happening, expectations we will still have for them and how they can communicate with our staff to problem solve. These are skills that will be transferable later in life. The communication sent out by email/podcasts contained procedures, student expectations, the new schedule and videos/resources that can support them. I will continue to send these communications to their school email and would ask that you encourage them to check.

Finally, I plan to continue communicating EBHS events and updates to you by email, phone, text, our school web page and if you are willing Twitter (@EBHSprinc). My goal is to keep you informed the best that I can so that together we can support our students. I also want to let you know that our counselors, student assistant specialists, child study team members, grade level administrators and myself are also available if/when needed. Email would be the best way to contact us.

As new challenges and questions arise, and they will, I would ask you pose them to the individual best suited to answer. Our goal is to provide students and parents with the most up to date information. Yet, sometimes this may take time. Allow us the opportunity to review and prepare a thoughtful response that can best answer your question(s). I would also ask that when communicating, we all do so responsibly and avoid speculating. Rather than communicating out misinformation, let’s all agree to wait for the facts and get it right. I think this is a great opportunity for us as adults to be role models for our children.

I have the utmost confidence that working together we will be able to provide our students with the academic, social and emotional support needed to successfully make it through this time. I wish you and your family all the best and I will be back in touch soon.

Stay well,

Michael Vinella