

March 23, 2020

Dear Ranger Family,

Last week was the most unusual period in my 35-year career in Fort Bend ISD. I was at school a few times to work in my office. I walked the hallways to check on general building issues and experienced a powerful feeling of sadness. The student flyers advertising club meetings, concerts, travel opportunities, cap and gown information, and hygiene tips spoke to no one. Our beautiful Commons mural oversaw empty tables and a sparkling clean floor. Classrooms, gyms, and performance halls waited patiently for happy kids. I have been at school many times when it was empty (winter break especially). During those times, it always felt like the building was taking a deep breath as it rested from the never-ending pace of CHS. Not last week. Our old creaking walls actually expressed a sad loneliness to me. I am sure it was echoing my own emotions because right now I am aware of the loss and isolation that many students are feeling. I am especially worried about our seniors, the truly outstanding Class of 2020.

My daughter is a FBISD senior. I am acutely sensitive to the fact that our seniors will likely miss many, if not all, of their highly anticipated landmark activities: final academic and athletic contests, concerts, banquets, prom, and so on. The CHS and FBISD staff will do our best to salvage what we can of this semester. However, we all know that the spring of 2020 will forever have an asterisk by it. Nothing is normal right now; nothing is "fair." It is important that adults speak openly and honestly with kids about this fact. Please provide a perspective to your children that acknowledges their emotions but also reminds them that there is so much in their young lives to anticipate with excitement. Have them develop plans for tomorrow, next week, the summer, and beyond. Then help them enact those plans.

Life is not completely gloomy right now. I am inspired by Clements teachers and students who are interacting online in fun and enriching ways. Likewise, many Rangers are helping others in the community by connecting virtually with senior citizens, delivering food and care packages, cleaning neighborhood parks, and sharing educational enrichment activities. Clements High School was having a superb year in so many areas: academics, the arts, athletics, I-Lunch, Mrs. Menzie as FBISD Teacher-of-the-Year finalist, Mr. Daughters as FBISD Secondary Rookie of the Year, etc. Those accomplishments will not be forgotten and provide a strong foundation for when we return to normalcy.

### **Reminders and Updates**

- Complete the parent survey found [here](#). The survey is found under "Quick Links." ***Please submit your survey today.***
- Clements and FBISD are closed through at least April 10. Students and parents cannot access the campus until further notice.
- **The CHS Prom has been moved to May 23.** This buys us an additional two weeks; however, it is possible that we will not be able to have prom in May. It all depends on the course of the virus. Stay current about prom notifications here. Tickets are \$95.00 each thru April 24, 2020. Ticket prices will increase to \$105.00 on April 25. Last day for online sales is Wednesday, May 6. Refunds will be granted in case of cancellation.
- Governor Abbott canceled STAAR/EOC testing for this semester.
- The College Board released important information about AP exams. Click [here](#) for the update.
- FBISD published a great "At-Home Learning" resource. Click [here](#) for enriching learning experiences.
- Information about *teacher-led* learning will be published in the coming days.

- The Texas DPS has waived the Verification of Enrollment (VOE) form requirement for now due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) for details. Check The DPS website for operating hours.
- Teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff members are not available for face-to-face meetings until further notice. Staff members will reply to emails as usual.
- The district continues to post information related to COVID-19 on its [website](#). A special phone line is active and ready to handle community phone calls. Please call 281-634-0043 with questions. Of course, you can always contact me or my staff. My office presence is unpredictable during this closure but I am reachable via email ([dyaffie@fortbendisd.com](mailto:dyaffie@fortbendisd.com)).

Most importantly, I urge you to adhere to local and national medical advice regarding physical distancing. This is critical to slowing the transmission of the virus. Avoid going to stores except for food, medicine, and other items essential for life. Utilize online ordering. Patronize local business via online ordering or curbside service as appropriate. Tip generously.

I wish the very best for you and your family during this unprecedented time. My staff and I are here to help your child. Please do not allow your kids to become isolated. Be certain to share this letter with them.

Stay safe and healthy,

David Yaffie