

Dear HA Family:

By now, I'm sure you have all heard about Governor Ivey's announcement that public schools will be closed for the rest of the year. The previous announcement from the governor, which closed schools starting on March 19th, was a "State Health Order." This order applied to all public AND private schools. Currently, we are seeking guidance from the Governor's office and the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA) about what this current proclamation means for Houston Academy. I will let you know as soon as we have clarity.

For now, we will continue with our distance learning protocol on which you have received information from each of our Division Heads (Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School). While it is far from ideal, we believe our superior technology infrastructure allows us to deliver quality education for your children which is far beyond the capability of the public schools -- and even the vast majority of private schools in the state. Rest assured that all students will be able to earn full credit for their second semester classes. I should also note that we have been told that even Advanced Placement students in the Upper School will be able to take modified exams and receive college credit from the College Board.

We began planning for this eventuality almost a month ago, and I am incredibly proud of how hard our teachers and administrators have worked to prepare a quality, online educational experience for our children. Moreover, I want to assure you that any curricular gaps that emerge when students do finally return to school will be fully remediated by our teachers. We will work incredibly hard to make sure no child falls behind because of our current crisis.

I will be in touch with you about our plans as soon as I have relevant information. In the meantime, know that we are praying for your health, safety, and prosperity. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Scott D. Phillipps

Headmaster, Houston Academy

