

March 20, 2020

Dear Hawthorn Families,

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we implement e-Learning in Hawthorn School District 73. We know that juggling the demands of home learning, careers, and wellness is incredibly challenging. Thank you for your positive approach and commitment! We also want to thank the many parents who have reached out to teachers with notes of gratitude; your messages are sincerely appreciated by our dedicated teams. We are so grateful to serve such a caring and collaborative parent community!

As you know from earlier communication, e-Learning is suspended during the district's spring break (Monday, March 23 - Friday, March 27th). Please consider spending nonacademic time with your children, as you typically would and to the greatest extent possible. Given the current circumstances, we recognize that our e-Learning plans and resources may prove helpful to families. You are welcome to visit our [home learning webpage](#) throughout spring break; all learning menus and resources will remain posted for you and your children.

Upon our return to e-Learning on Monday, March 30th, you will receive communication from your child's teacher and principal. You will also find that some of the learning experiences and resources posted on your child's e-Learning menu have been updated, so please be prepared for some changes to the posted content. As a reminder, the purpose of our e-Learning plans is to provide relevant and creative learning activities that encourage your child to create, connect, and explore. Our goal is for students to participate in learning that brings them joy and helps support their skill development.

Please note that circumstances are changing quickly. If closures extend past our scheduled return date of Monday, April 6th, we will likely implement a new plan and platform to support more formalized e-Learning experiences. We have been working around the clock to not only support our current plan, but also investigate different options and needs associated with an extended closure. Many of these decisions are pending, as districts across the state are awaiting guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Information from ISBE is constantly evolving, and we are continuing to revise plans and protocols in accordance with these ongoing updates. Toward this end, please consider completing our [survey](#) by Friday, March 27th. The survey focuses on e-Learning and access to technology; responses will be used to inform future planning.

In an effort to communicate recent changes, points of clarification, and other guidance shared by ISBE over the last 24-72 hours, we have updated our [Hawthorn School District 73 E-Learning Guide for Parents and Guardians](#). New information is reflected in [purple text](#) so that it may be easily identified. This revised document will soon replace the original guide posted on our [home learning webpage](#) to ensure families have access to accurate and timely information. Keep in mind that ISBE will likely release additional guidance prior to our return on Monday, March 30th that will not be reflected in this document.

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support as we work to ensure the safety of our Hawthorn community. We wish you a healthy and relaxing spring break with your loved ones, and look forward to reconnecting with you and your children on Monday, March 30th.

Sincerely,

Hawthorn District 73 Department of Teaching and Learning
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Ms. Lauren Boardman, Instructional Coach
Ms. Carie Cohen, Special Education Coordinator
Dr. Karen Maturo, Coordinator of Professional Development
Mr. John Reid, Director of Instructional Technology
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