

Dear Hawthorn Families,

Welcome back! We hope you had an opportunity to relax with family over our spring vacation, and that both you and your loved ones are well.

Upon our virtual return to school on Monday, March 30th, you will receive communication from your child's teacher and principal to welcome you to our second week of remote learning. Your child's remote learning plan will be available to you on our [home learning webpage](#), organized by school and grade level. You may find that some of the learning experiences and resources posted to your child's remote learning menu have been updated from our first week, so please be prepared for these kinds of changes. Should you or your child wish to preview your remote learning plan before the week begins, you are welcome to do so; all plans will post to our [home learning webpage](#) by 5:00 p.m. this evening.

As a reminder, there are currently no set start and end times for students' remote learning within a given school day. This provides flexibility for the diverse needs of our families; students may access our remote learning plans and engage in learning at any time. While teachers may offer "real time" learning opportunities via virtual instruction, discussions, or read-alouds, these are not mandatory and alternatives are available. We know and respect that each family is facing different challenges during this crisis. Please continue to email your child's teacher(s) with any questions or needs so that we may work together to support your child's success. If you are in need of additional support, please visit our [home learning webpage](#) to access the contact information for your child's school social worker and/or to view our list of community resources.

In an effort to support your child's use of electronic devices and digital platforms at home, our Technology Department has developed a list of [reminders and recommendations](#) for parents/guardians regarding cybersafety and security. You are encouraged to review this information and reach out for any needed support. We also invite you to read this [letter](#) from our Director of Special Services, which details how our special service providers are working to ensure a continuity of special education support via virtual platforms. Please note the information in this letter is applicable to students in both special and general education who are accessing support services remotely, either as individuals or in groups.

As Dr. Hannigan mentioned in his most recent message to families, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has shared updated guidance regarding the newly defined "Remote Learning Days." These recommendations were issued to districts across the state on the evening of Friday, March 27, and included multiple pages of new guidance around grading academic work at different grade level bands and for varied subgroups of students. In preparation for the release of this report, and with predicted ISBE guidance in mind, our team collaborated throughout this past week to proactively draft possible updates to our plans and protocols. We are now finalizing any needed adjustments to our district's plans to align with ISBE's published guidance, and will communicate relevant updates with you in the coming days. Our goal is to ensure the understanding and readiness of all stakeholders (students, staff, and families) prior to implementing any updated protocols related to ISBE's report.

Please note that should school closures extend past our scheduled return date of April 8th, we are ready with additional plans that serve to enhance our students' remote learning experience. These plans include the distribution of electronic devices to students in pre-kindergarten through 5th grade who do not have consistent access to a device at home. Members of our Technology Department have been busy preparing any existing district devices for home use, and eligible families will soon receive more information about our distribution process. Correspondingly, we have plans to implement learning management systems for our pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students, staff, and families that mirror the ongoing use of Canvas and Google Classroom at the middle school level. The integration of these tools will support more interactive and comprehensive remote

learning experiences for all students; details are forthcoming. In the meantime, our parent survey has closed and we are using the resulting data to improve current practices. Thank you to the many parents who provided feedback to support our success!

We recognize that circumstances may be changing for many of our families, and invite you to register for daily meal service (breakfast and lunch). Meals are free, and available to any child 18 years or younger residing in our community. To help ensure we have the appropriate amount of food available for distribution, families in need of meal service are asked to complete this [form](#) by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30th. Families seeking to make a donation to those in need are encouraged to do so via the [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#).

Thank you, again, for your continued partnership in supporting the growth and learning of all students. We miss seeing your children each day, and look forward to connecting with them tomorrow!

Sincerely,

The Hawthorn District 73 Department of Teaching and Learning  
Dr. Arturo Abrego, Director of Bilingual Education and Language Acquisition  
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  
Ms. Allison Stein, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Ms. Alma Tamayo, Special Education Coordinator  
Mrs. Renee Ullberg, Director of Student Services