



March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Colonel Families,

What a difference a week makes. Last week we were talking about Spring Break plans and this week remote learning and wondering when we are coming back to school. I know our district has sent some information and we will continue to communicate to the best of our abilities.

Some things to consider when children are doing remote learning. Some parents are working and children are being attended to by grandparents or older siblings and they do not have hours to help do the work. Some families want more work to keep children busy. Some want less because they too are working from home and time is of the essence. There is no right answer to how much work can be given or completed. Please remember we are all going through this together without an outline of how this was done in the past, because it has never been done.

Our teachers are learning new ways to communicate with students, to deliver curriculum, to help and they have had no training on how to do so. Please be patient and ask questions. Our staff will be available through email and other tools that you have used this year (Remind App, etc.). They will be checking their email during regular hours and responding the best they can.

With all of this in mind, we are still one Oak Hills community and one COH Family. Hopefully you have seen some of our staff enjoying family time during Spring Break through pictures on our Facebook page. While we are off I am encouraging you to send me emails with pictures of your family, doing remote learning, playing games, having fun, and just being together. I will then spend time daily uploading some of those pictures to our Facebook page and keep our COH family connected. You can send them to [conners\\_b@ohlsd.org](mailto:conners_b@ohlsd.org) and add a quick caption. In times like this we need each other and we need to smile.

Also, in dealing with these uncertain times we know that children will have many questions and most will feel afraid. The best thing you can do is assure them they will be okay. Limit the amount of media they are exposed to, and give them the facts on their age level. Facetime relatives, and get some fresh air. Play toss in the yard, and go for a family walk. Dust off the board games and spend time together. Do not overplan every minute of the day. This is a great time to bring back the learning that occurs with free time. This is a time for children to get creative when they are bored. Boredom is not bad for children, it will cause them to use household items to create things and use their imagination.

Thank you for working with us during this "remote learning" journey. Please be safe and we will see you at 585 Neeb Road soon!

Proud to be a Colonel,  
**Brian Connors**

1. We will be checking the absence line regularly during our remote learning period so if you have any concerns please leave a message with your contact information so we can get back to you with answers as quickly as we can. Call 513-922-1485 and press "1" for our absence line to leave a message.
2. Stay connected with our COH Fitness Ed while we navigate online learning - [www.facebook.com/cohgym](http://www.facebook.com/cohgym)
3. The PTA would like to thank you for your support of our candy sale fundraiser. We've almost surpassed the number of boxes sold last year. Notices were sent home for students still missing candy or money. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns - Sarah Geil [Coharrisonpta.2vp@gmail.com](mailto:Coharrisonpta.2vp@gmail.com) , 513-706-7616
4. Barn Hill Preserve Educational Animal Program has been CANCELLED for the morning of Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. **Optional** Merchandise payments made out to OHLSD or cash will be returned to students in an envelope marked with your student's name, teacher's name and homeroom number as soon as we return back to regular school hours.
5. One Hope One Heart is scheduled at OHHS on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to the mandatory school closure this event will need to be rescheduled. Stay tuned for a new date when return to regular school hours. The COH Volleyball Team will once again be led by Coach Gutz! Please come to cheer for our amazing team - **Volleyball Team 2020** - Laura Gutzwiller, Vanessa Salgado, Chanel Stevens, Sarah Kamp, Holly Asman, Angela Falhaber, Emily Amlin, Candace Poole, Penny Ferguson & Brian Weldele
6. [Click here for a link to an important message from our District Nurse regarding the Coronavirus.](#)
7. PTA Cookies and Canvas with Mom! This event will be rescheduled when we return back to regular school hours.



Questions? Reach out to Sara Carpenter at [COHpta.vp1@gmail.com](mailto:COHpta.vp1@gmail.com)

8. [Click here for a link to the OH Little Highlanders Cheer Flyer](#)
9. [Click here for a link to the 2020 OHYA 5k Informational Flyer](#)
10. [Click here for a link to the OH Youth and Youth Prep Dance Team Tryout Informational Flyer](#)
11. [Click here for a link to a flyer for Trinity Hill Daycare Enrollment Options](#)
12. 2020 "Me & My Favorite Fella Dance" ~ Sat, April 18 @ OHHS, 7-9 pm. Back by popular demand for a 4th year, this special event is open to ALL families in the Oak Hills School District and family & friends. And NEW this year (we heard you), the dance is open to girls 3 & older!! You do not have to be a scout to attend. Girls, grab your Favorite Fella...Dad, Bonus Dad, Grandpa, Uncle or other father figure in your life, and get ready to share an unforgettably magic night together! See the attached flyer for more details. Buy your tickets @ <https://2019-my-favorite-fella-dance.ticketbud.com/2020-me---my-favorite-fella-dance>. Questions: [gsw043805@gmail.com](mailto:gsw043805@gmail.com) or (513) 313.3060.

### 13. **Oak Hills Youth Athletics (OHYA) Sports Registrations**

Information on ALL sports, registration fees and registration links can be found by going to [www.ohyouthathletics.org](http://www.ohyouthathletics.org) and choosing the sport.

#### **SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

##### **TRACK**

- Grades K – 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Registration Fee: \$35
  - Registration **closes** April 1
- Follow the link for more information and to register for Track! <https://oakhillsathletics.sportngin.com/register/form/165803806>

### **OHYA Competitive Swim Team – Summer long course**

- Sign-up - evaluations on March 7th
- Ages 6 – 18
- Contact [ohyaswimming@gmail.com](mailto:ohyaswimming@gmail.com) with any questions.

Follow the link for more information and to register for evaluations! <https://oakhillsathletics.sportngin.com/register/form/483576642>

- 14. Did you know current 5th graders can try out for the Oak Hills Middle School Competition Cheerleading team? Participants must be planning to also cheer and compete with the Little Highlanders cheer team. Tryouts will be held this year on April 4th and 5th for incoming 6-8 graders. Come to our parent and participant tryout information meeting March 25th at 7 PM in the Bridgetown Middle School multipurpose room to learn more! This meeting may need to be rescheduled due to the school closure. Check out the website listed below for any new updates regarding tryouts!**

The OHMS cheerleading program focuses on building school spirit, leadership, confidence, and team building. Our competitive and game-day programs are some of the best in the Cincinnati area! Come check us out! Tryout packets will be available in the main office of your school beginning March 2nd. Please visit our website at [oakhillscheer.wix.com/ohms](http://oakhillscheer.wix.com/ohms) for more information.

Email Kristina Dearwester ([dearwester\\_k@ohlsd.org](mailto:dearwester_k@ohlsd.org)) or Melissa Claus ([claus\\_m@ohlsd.org](mailto:claus_m@ohlsd.org)) with any questions.

15. The online Emergency Medical Authorization (EMA) form is available to access and update for the 2019-2020 school year. Click [here](#) to access the EMA system on the OHLSD parent portal. Please complete ASAP! Students may not attend field trips without a completed EMA form.

[Like us on Facebook](#) – @COHColonels



[Follow us on Instagram](#) – COHColonels

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**No School for Students - Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - In-Service Day (Staff Only)**

**Spring Break – School will be closed Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020-Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for Spring Break**

**Mandatory School Closure March 16<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 per Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine due to the Coronavirus.**

**Reminder: A student may only be released during the school day to someone listed as Legal Guardian or an Emergency Contact on his/her online EMA. A photo ID is required to pick up a student and also to enter the school building for volunteering, meetings, using the restroom, etc.**

#### **Links:**

The 2019-2020 OHLSD School Calendar is available at [www.ohlsd.org](http://www.ohlsd.org).

[Click here for a link to the OHLSD Parent Portal](#)

[Click Here for Volunteer Packet with Background Verification Form](#)

[Click Here for the March School Lunch Menu](#)

## **ATTENDANCE REMINDER**

**Parents or Guardians** need to contact the **Attendance Secretary** to give the reason why a student is absent from school. If a child is going to be on vacation or out for a surgery then the parent must email Mrs. Blome @blome\_d@ohlsd.org in advance and list the range of dates for the absence along with **the reason** for the absence. Extended absences for surgery will also require a doctor note to be sent in when the student returns to school. A parent can call the absence line (513) 922-1485 and press 1 to reach the absence line voice mail to leave a message about an upcoming absence for a surgery or vacation with the range of dates as well as **the reason** for the extended absence. Contacting a child's teacher via email **does not** excuse an absence-it needs to be communicated with the attendance office so that the attendance record can be updated. Doctor Notes are also required for any absences (including doctor or dentist appointments during the day) after 10 absent days. Please remember that when your child is home sick you must call the absence line 513-922-1485 – press 1 for the absence line (Not the Nurse) to report the reason for the absence for **EACH** day a child is absent unless the doctor gives you the range of dates that your child will need to be out and you list those dates in the message. **If the nurse sends your child home sick, a parent must still call the absence line the next day to report WHY the child is absent.** You can also email the attendance secretary Mrs. Debby Blome @ [blome\\_d@ohlsd.org](mailto:blome_d@ohlsd.org) to give the reason for a child's absence. After 10 absences it is **REQUIRED** to send in a Doctor's note for illness and appointments- **NOT** a Parent Note. After 10 days all absences will be **UNEXCUSED** without a doctor's note. If a parent calls the absence line and does not give the reason for an absence it will be **UNEXCUSED**.  
If you have any questions regarding a student's attendance record, please contact Mrs. Blome in the office.

### 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

### How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

### EVERY DAY COUNTS

**If you want your child to be successful at school then, YES, attendance does matter!**

---