

TSCA COVID-19 STATUS: Today, April 17, 2020, **Governor Abbott announced that public and private schools are closed for the remainder of the school year.** He made this announcement during a press conference announcing the gradual opening of businesses in Texas. This latest decision now supersedes the executive order made on March 31, 2020, to keep schools closed through May 4, 2020. As a result, TSCA is saddened to announce that we will not be able to reconvene classes on site as we had hoped and will continue delivering our e-learning program remotely for the remainder of the school year. How we miss our scholars and all of you! We will be sending out updates containing important information about final exams, semester and nine-week grades, and other end-of-year activities/events. Please stay tuned!

TSCA NEW POLICY FOR CLASSROOM/HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED LATE

Given the challenges we are all encountering during the COVID-19 crisis, TSCA changed its policy for student homework that is submitted late. We are no longer deducting points for assignments turned in 1-2 days beyond the due date or entering zeros in the gradebook when a student has not submitted his/her assigned work beyond that time. We are currently using the code "I" with the assigned status of "Missing" in the RenWeb gradebook to alert students, parents, and teachers to the fact that a scholar still needs to submit the missing assignment to get credit for the work. When the assignment is submitted, preferably no more than five days late, the teacher will grade the student's work and change the "I" to the grade earned by the scholar. Again, no points will be deducted for submitting the assignment late. Our goal remains that our scholars get all assigned work completed and submitted; however, during these trying times, we recognize that flexibility and grace are vital. Please be assured that we will work with each scholar and his/her parents throughout the last quarter to be sure that all work is submitted by the end of the 4th nine weeks.

TSCA E-LEARNING PROGRAM

As we continue delivering instruction via our e-learning program, we are making enhancements to our Google and Seesaw Classrooms to ensure we are providing a high-quality digital learning experience that is user friendly, engaging, and streamlined. We truly want to be the BEST we can be in all things for our scholars and families! This week, we launched a hands-on accountability system employing three digital learning leaders who are responsible for monitoring our e-learning classrooms. In this way, every teacher's digital classroom is analyzed weekly to get a first-hand look at all of our learning elements including activities, videos, delivery methods, grading, and ongoing feedback, both from students and teachers. Then, we continue monitoring the classrooms throughout the week and provide feedback and instruction where needed. Note the following steps that are now in place as they have notably strengthened our program:

- Conducted mandatory "Effective Feedback and Authentic Assessments" training for elementary and secondary faculty. This training was exceptional and focused on more engaging learning and meaningful assessments. We are better teachers!
- Mrs. Cardoso and Mrs. Hudgins held individualized training with faculty who were identified as needing some interventions to refine their digital classrooms to make them more effective. What a difference maker this was! It will pay big dividends to our scholars as we move forward.
- Created Digital Learning Checklists at the secondary and elementary levels, and shared with faculty, so they knew what our digital learning leaders would be looking

for when they analyzed each Google or Seesaw classroom each Monday. We set high expectations! Through this process, we were able to determine and immediately address any missing elements we discovered in any given e-learning classroom. We are stronger than ever!

- Launched 4th and 5th grade Seesaw classrooms through a successful transition from Google Classroom. Thank you, parents, for your patience and understanding in working with us as we made this move to serve your young scholars better!
- Added new choice learning boards to the elementary and secondary digital classrooms. These really support individualized learning! Look for our new, engaging Music Choice Board, grades 6-12, launching on Monday, April 20th! This new addition brings choice to all our elementary and secondary scholars now.
- Expanded Zoom teaching videos to include more modeling and manipulatives for early childhood instruction.
- Relationship building! Identified and began intervening more assertively with our Red Flag Scholars. These are scholars who are showing signs of struggling academically. We want to be sure we connect with our scholars and families more frequently via email, text message, phone call, and even Hangout chats when we see a scholar is struggling academically, emotionally, or spiritually. We are thankful that several of our scholars are reaching out for help, so we can meet their needs! Thank you, also, to our parents who trust us to take action to make needed changes. You don't hesitate to contact us and pose great questions or concerns that truly need to be addressed. What a difference your feedback has made for our scholars at TSCA!

TSCA E-LEARNING WEBSITE

Have you checked out our TSCA E-Learning Website, <https://www.tsca.org/e-learning-at-tsca/>? This website will serve as the repository for all-things distance learning until we are able to gather in person again at school. You will find important information there like general resources for families, how to contact us, and an FAQ. ***Please note that if you would like your child to have more work or activities available through our e-learning program, let Mrs. Cardoso (6-12th grade) or Mrs. Hudgins (PK-5th grade) know.***

SENIOR GRADUATION

Given the Governor's decision today to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, we are moving forward with our alternate high school graduation date of June 26, 2020. The Senior Mission Trip has now been rescheduled for June 14-20. The next meeting of the Class of 2020 has been rescheduled and will now be held on Monday, April 27, 2020, at 5:30 pm via Google Hangouts. A meeting invite will be sent, and parents are welcome to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD

All events in April have been canceled. We will keep you posted about other developments at TSCA as we move forward!