



Updates on Grading Policy, Remote Learning and Consolidated Communications

April 8, 2020

Greetings Great Hearts Irving Families,

I am writing to you this morning to share three updates and a reminder related to this journey we're on together called Great Hearts Remote Learning.

Update 1: Great Hearts Texas Grading Policy

Next week, Great Hearts Irving will be releasing students' Quarter 3 grades. These grades represent a shortened grading period ending on March 13. Teachers have made every effort to ensure that these grades are fair, and that students have not been penalized for the shortness of the quarter.

In light of the extraordinary circumstances, **Great Hearts has adopted a special semester grading policy for Quarter 4 and Semester 2.** This policy was developed with input from college and university admissions departments about what would look best on high school student transcripts. Click [here](#) to read the policy in full.

Update 2: Remote Learning Survey

Many families have expressed that Great Hearts "remote learning" is working well for them, and that their children are thriving. We also know that many are struggling, and that the challenges of navigating at-home learning are not the only ones families have to face right now. Adjusting to distance learning might not even be in the top five for you.

As we seek to nourish your children's minds and hearts during these times with the rich substance of a Great Hearts education within the restrictions of school closure and distance learning, we need your feedback so we can make adjustments and learn how to do what works best in the "new normal" our families are living in.

Would you please take a few minutes to complete [this survey](#) and share your experiences of Great Hearts distance learning so far?

Update 3: Consolidating Communications

You are hearing from us a lot. Teachers sharing resources, headmasters sharing reflections and pertinent updates, Great Hearts Texas leaders sharing additional pertinent updates. We are working to lessen the number of emails you receive from a Great Hearts team member, and instead to direct families to the [Great Hearts Texas Resources](#) page for all relevant and updated information regarding remote learning. Please bookmark this page and check for updates once or twice a week. We hope this will be helpful and appreciate your patience as we work toward success in keeping you well-informed without clogging your inbox.

I'd like to highlight a few new resources that have just been posted on the Texas Resources page:



1. **FAQ for Google and Zoom Parent Permission** – We have compiled [FAQs](#) from families related to the safety and security of Google and Zoom.
2. **IT Tech Support** – [This document](#) provides academy-specific emails for tech support as well as basic computer troubleshooting.
3. **Google Classroom Family Walkthrough** – [This document](#) provides step-by-step instructions for navigating Google Classroom with any device.

Reminder: Parental Consent Form for Use of Zoom and Google Classrooms

Please take a moment to [click here and complete the Parental Consent Form](#) if you have not already done so. At this time, 70% of Great Hearts Irving families have provided consent. As a fellow GHI parent whose kids will be utilizing these learning platforms, I share your concern and need for ensuring our kids are protected online. We have provided resources and answers to common security questions so you are well-informed and at ease in using these platforms correctly and as intended. [Click here](#) to view the Great Hearts Texas Resources page.

Upcoming Dates

- **Thursday, April 9**: Loaner devices will be distributed to families who need them for remote learning. An email to these families will arrive by end of today, April 8.
- **Thursday, April 16**: Google Classroom usernames and passwords will be provided to families who have completed the Parental Consent Form.
- **Monday, April 20**: Great Hearts Irving begins use of Google Classrooms

We remain humbled and inspired by your children's diligence and resilience, and by your support of them, during this time. If you have any questions, please continue to email your campus headmaster or the Great Hearts leadership team at questions@greatheartsamerica.org.

Sincerely,

David Denton
Executive Director, Great Hearts North Texas