



“...that they might
be called trees of
righteousness”

TO: Houghton Academy Parents and Students
Houghton Academy Faculty/Staff

March 15, 2020

Dear Houghton Academy Community:

As promised on Friday, March 13, I have continued to collaborate with others to review and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Student/staff safety has been the paramount concern.

This update is to advise you that Houghton Academy is adjusting its schedule for this week in preparation for observing a 24-day closing period (Thursday, March 19 through Monday, April 13) during which students will not be attending classes on campus. This time period includes the Academy's Easter/Spring Break (April 3-13). It is not possible to accurately predict if this campus closing period will be extended.

Over the weekend, I have been in consultation with the Academy's Crisis Management Team (CMT) and heard advice from New York's Council of Independent and Religious Schools (NYCIRS), the Allegany County Health Department, and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). The advice is consistent and clear: to address the COVID-19 pandemic, Houghton Academy should develop and implement a school closure protocol specific to the needs of the school.

I met with the Crisis Management Team this afternoon. Following is the schedule through Wednesday.

- Monday, March 16: Regular class day
- Tuesday, March 17: No students in attendance while faculty prepare adjust plans for the delivery of instruction (online, digital and utilizing google classroom)
- Wednesday, March 18: Regular class day; students will be guided through each course's unique delivery and class expectations for March 19 - April 13

Beginning Thursday, classes will not meet on campus. Boarding students will continue in the dormitories on campus. The Academy will provide a revised daily schedule for those students. Parents of boarding students with special requests should contact Mrs. Smithley (janyce.smithley@houghton.academy), who will send further information to parents of boarding students later this week, as needed.

I plan to send a further update Tuesday, March 17. During the upcoming adjustment, may learning be meaningful, may all remain healthy, and may we not be anxious. Do not hesitate to chat, call, or write.

John Nelson
Head of School
Mobile: +1 716.449.0558 (WhatsApp and WeChat)