April 16, 2020

Dear Spartans,

Due to the current situation regarding the spread of COVID-19 within our community, the unfortunate but expected decision has been made that students will not be returning to our campus for remainder of the 2019 – 2020 school year. While we all would love to return to Sparta to end this school year in the physical presence of each other, it is important that we refrain from gathering in all locations including our campus for the safety of everyone.

So, exactly what does that mean for the end of this school year? Here are some essential points:

Instruction will end on May 15th for all students who have completed their work and have earned a CP (passing) mark. For these students, the 2019-2002 school year is officially over. For those students who have not completed their work and are at the CI (incomplete) mark, the school year will continue. They will be given one additional week...until May 22nd...to complete their work and raise it to a CP.

Summer School at both VVECHS and EPCC will be online. Students will be expected to complete work for their assigned classes just as they would in any other summer. Generally speaking, most freshmen will take Health, Technical Writing and one EPCC class. Sophomores will take a math review class, Technical Writing and one EPCC class. Juniors will take Economics, Practical Writing and one EPCC class. EPCC will begin their summer classes online on May 26 while the high school summer online classes will begin June 8. Both high school and summer classes will end on June 26. Mrs. McNulty has the information needed to schedule our students. If she needs any additional information, she will contact each student individually.

Graduation, most likely, will not occur on June 2 depending on city and state guidelines. If it is postponed, we are reviewing various options. Senior parents and students will be receiving an online survey in a couple of weeks to get input and preferences on these graduation possibilities. Rest assured, though, a graduation for our class of 2020 will occur at some point. They have earned it and they definitely deserve it!

Next school year is still scheduled to begin on August 24th. Online enrollment starts on April 21st at www.bit.ly/returning2YISD. Please take a few moments to complete it before May 22nd. If you have issues with your password or the process, please email our school secretary Julissa Elicerio (jelicero@yisd.net) or our attendance clerk Diana Aranda (daranda@yisd.net) and they will be able to assist you.
For student clearance, plans are being developed for seniors to come by the campus in May to return iPads and textbooks. All other students are to keep these items until further notice. We will give information in the coming weeks regarding any fundraising money that your child may currently possess.

The administration is looking carefully at all of the end of year events to see what can be postponed and done later, what needs to occur sometime before the fall but in a virtual way and what events will just have to be cancelled. Our goal is to make sure all of the events take place in one fashion or another and not eliminate anything, but the safety of our students and families comes first.

The entire Spartan administration, faculty and staff is saddened that we will not be able to physically meet to end the 2019-2020 school year. It is beyond our wildest dreams that a school year would end in quite this fashion. But, while we are not together physically, we are together as a community both spiritually and virtually. In spirit, we still strive together to accomplish our common goals while doing all we can to stay safe and healthy mentally, physically and emotionally. WE are here for you if you need help in any of these areas. Virtually, we can stay in contact with each and every one of you with the help of the school iPads and whatever other devices you personally own. We just ask that you respond back to our outreach attempts from teachers and the administration and for students to work hard online for the next 30 days. Please stay in contact with EACH of your teachers, not just one or two of them, weekly….daily if you prefer. We want to see you complete your work and earn credit for your classes, but equally if not more important, we want to see that you are doing well. It may be overused, but the saying “There is an end to every storm” is true. Spartans, we will come through this together...

Parents and students, if you have any questions, you can reach the administration at:
Paul Covey, Principal at pcovey@yisd.net or 915-434-1501
Laura Widner, Assistant Principal at lwidner@yisd.net or 915-434-1502
Maria McNulty, Counselor at mmcnulty@yisd.net or 915-434-1503
Teachers can be reached through their google classrooms (or Edmodo if they use that program) and through their school emails.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we move through our new normal as one!

Sincerely

Paul Covey
Principal