

September 18, 2020

Week six is in books for the 2020-2021 school year! Thank you to everyone who enjoyed our first and hopefully only 100% Virtual Back To School Night yesterday evening. As I went from class to class (I managed to get into 24 classes), it was nice to see our teachers sharing so much great information on their courses for our parents. Our students get to directly see and hear their teachers each day, so for our parents to get a small sample of what their children experience is valuable and beneficial for understanding how the courses are structured and taught. We have wonderful teachers, outstanding students, and very supportive parents. Troy High School is the best place in the world to be in school!—Until you get to college...then college is better. ©

Additional thanks to Dr. Jesse Knowles for filming the Troy Admin Team Back To School Night introductory video. That took a little planning, and Dr. Knowles is able to very quickly put together an outstanding video that needed very little changed. Yesterday morning, I received this kind message from one of our parents. "I just saw the Back to school night Welcome video and wanted to appreciate you and your school team for putting together a virtual Back to school night. We all understand how much all school teams and teachers are putting their hard work to give our kids education in this hard time. I really wanted to appreciate and salute you all. Please pass my message to all the teachers and school staff."

I would also like to recognize and thank Assistant Principal, Ms. Tina Wilde for doing the research and making the calls to our fellow FJUHSD schools to see what worked and did not work for their Virtual Back To School Nights. We had the luxury of being the last FJUHSD school this year to hold this event, so Ms. Wilde was able to take the lessons learned, add a couple of features to make our program more seamless, and created what turned out to be an excellent and informative evening. Thank you, again to all the Troy teachers, staff members, students, parents, and community members for being a part of our 2020-2021 Troy High School Virtual Back To School Night (THSVBTSN)! It was definitely one to remember! Go Warriors!



Drawn and updated by Mrs. Shannon Cogswell. Currently on display in Troy's Main Office.

Progress Reports were just finished by our teachers and that information should now be available to all parents. If your grades are not quite where you would like them to be at this point, there is still a lot of time to get on the right track. Students, first if you are not already doing so, talk to your teacher. Take advantage of the daily Student Support Time, as well as any opportunities in class. Remember, if you have a question it is likely you are not the only one. Your teacher will never know you have a question unless you ask. I have questions all the time. If you don't believe me just ask our Superintendent, Dr. Scambray. ©

Also here is something else that could help students with school that was forwarded to me by Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Sylvia Kaufman from The College Board Blog. I read it, and there are some great tips and definitely some that will work for everyone. This is a good read!

## 50 Ways Students Are Staying Focused While at Home

https://blog.collegeboard.org/50-ways-students-are-staying-focused-while-home

Students, I have written a for a couple weeks straight on our Peer Tutoring Club, so once again if you need academic help, please consider our peer tutors! Troy's Peer Tutoring Club (PTC) is up and running. If you are a student who needs help, please go to: <u>https://thspeertutoring.wixsite.com/home</u>. Also, if you are a student that is interested in being a Peer Tutor, please contact Mrs. Gabrielle Hufferd.

On Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we began celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States. You may be wondering why does this celebration begins in the middle of the month? I was able to find the answer and brief history of this celebration from the **2020 United States Census Bureau**.

"Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes and celebrates the contributions Americans tracing their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South American and the Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean have made to American society and culture. The observance was born in 1968 when Congress authorized the president to issue an annual proclamation designating National Hispanic Heritage Week. Just two decades later, lawmakers expanded it to a month long celebration, stretching from September 15 to October 15.

The timing is key. Hispanic Heritage Month — like its shorter precursor — always starts on September 15, a historically significant day that marks the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The designated period is also a nod to those from Mexico and Chile, which celebrate their independence on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively."

This week Troy High School has been holding a Virtual Club Rush organized by our ASB. Today is the last day, so if there is a club you are interested in joining, now is the time! Here is the message from ASB Advisor, Mrs. Alexandria Gillespie.

"Here is the <u>link</u> for the slides we are sending out as part of our virtual Club Rush. Please feel free to look at the clubs being offered, and don't hesitate to share this great resource on your Google Classrooms. Natalie Shirota, our Interclub Commissioner, has been working with all club presidents. This presentation represents hours of work on the part of our students!" In Troy NJROTC news, Commander Lauper reported on Tuesday our Troy NJROTC had a Virtual PT day with our senior cadets. Further, Commander Lauper has recently attended a number of meetings with the Navy League STEM Committee, training with the Naval Academy Admission Office, and the SeaPerch Western Regional Advisory Council. Last but not least, U.S. Congressman Gilbert Cisneros held his Virtual Service Academy Information Night on Monday, and there were many Troy NJROTC cadets in attendance. There will be more to report from NJROTC in the near future as they are busy working behind the scenes!



This picture is a little strange, but I took it from the center to each direction of our new Troy High School batting cage that is currently under construction. On Thursday morning at 5:30am, construction turned on the lights to ensure they are getting the light in the right areas and adjusting those individual lights that may not be just right. The batting cage is close to operational, so when more of the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, our athletes will be able to use this facility! Thank you to all of the Baseball Boosters, Coaches, athletes, parents, community members, and district M & O staff, having made the construction of the facility possible! I will have better pictures when it gets closer to operational mode!

While we are Distance Learning a lot of things are a little different. One of those things is our student led video news broadcast. Rather than the broadcast happening daily, it is currently weekly. Led by their teacher, Dr. Jesse Knowles, this group of dedicated students each week are creating and posting their broadcast. They are doing a fantastic job reporting relevant news and announcements to our students and here is the link to this week's broadcast. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQJm0-0v4eKRwDW2zwDL3Vw/videos



This is a picture of one of the shirts that were provided by our Troy Support Organization foundation to our school staff and our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. Our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are our newest class and while they are officially part of the Troy family, we were looking for another way to connect them to our school and welcome them in what feels like a more traditional fashion. Our foundation stepped up with this student designed t-shirt which our TSO members distributed this week in a drive by pick up in the North Gym Parking lot. Our Troy Support Organization does much for Troy High School's students and they do so through contributions by our Troy community. I have attached a link to information that describes the work our foundation does for our school. Go Warriors!

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.thetroydifference.org&c=E,1,jQlw XUqy\_vKmfVplu44uycFDzGMc7W5YbU2d9RQQzoGejAu2hFizSZvZPwS4ne5tPfgQ4jHYlseBn9RHmEzGrwxbq7e11xz4P2ksBTZEL3UKsGu&typo=1

At 3:01pm the school day is over and it is the weekend! Fall is in the air and this weekend it is really starting to give us that Fall Season feeling with the warm days and cooler nights. It also looks like we are getting a break from the smoke from the fires, which our firefighters are doing an admirable job fighting. I hope everyone takes the opportunity get outside and perhaps take a walk, hike, run, or something to get out and about but still keep that

social distancing. The pandemic is still going, but the work all of us have been doing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus is paying off. I will plan to take advantage of some downtime this weekend to actually watch, *It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown*. Despite my best of intentions it did not happen last weekend. As you will see in the photo below, Luna will take her viewing spot for the movie, but very likely will fall asleep... © Rest, relax, repeat! I will see everyone back here in our Virtual Troy High School on Monday morning!





W.V. Mynster