

STATEWIDE MANDATORY SCHOOL CLOSURE
Alain Locke closed from March 17th to April 20th
School resumes for students and staff on Tuesday, April 21st

March 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced tonight that Chicago Public Schools will remain closed from now through April 20th to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In light of this announcement, **Alain Locke will remain closed until Tuesday, April 21st.**

Free lunch and breakfast will still be available to all Chicago-area students if needed. All families will be able to pick up meals outside of their nearest CPS school beginning March 17th, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Monday-Friday throughout the closure. Students will not need to provide ID or proof of address. They will not be turned away.

If anyone is in need of delivery during the closure, you can call 773-553-KIDS for emergency delivery. If you need help locating medical care, please reach out to the CPS Office of Student Health and Wellness at oshw@cps.edu or by calling the CPS Command Center at 773-553-KIDS (5437).

We are committed to keeping students engaged in their learning during this statewide school closure. Our instructors have put together **home learning packets** for students to complete during the school closure and spring break. Please be sure that your child reads at home daily as well.

To supplement these learning packets, we encourage students to continue to engage in other online educational program that Alain Locke provides throughout the school year. Your child's instructor will be sending home a list of these e-learning options like Headsprout, Freckles, IXL, Study Island, etc. that your child can do at home. Please check out our website at www.alainlocke.org for links to all the online programs commonly used at Alain Locke as well as links to other free online at-home learning resources and activities.

Concern over this new virus can make children anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If adults seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Adults should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy.

Children also need factual, age-appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk, so the focus of conversation should be concrete instructions about how to avoid infections and the spread of disease. Teaching children positive measures, talking with them about their

fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infections can help reduce anxiety. Please talk with your children about precautions they can take to stay healthy, including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is best, especially if they are visibly dirty. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is a suitable alternative. Consider showing your children one of these videos about proper handwashing technique: www.cdc.gov/handwashing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Stay home if you are able to stay home. Avoid travel if you can.

The National Association of School Psychologists has additional guidelines about talking to children about COVID-19 at [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource).

Thank you for your support, as we work together to protect our community during the growing COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to inform you as quickly as we can about any further changes to school services. Please check our school's website regularly for any additional updates at www.alainlocke.org.

We appreciate your partnership, and we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Patrick Love
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