



ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

## Office *of the* President

**Office of the President**

St. Thomas High School  
4500 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77007

**P** 713-864-6348

**E** james.murphy@sths.org

**W** sths.org

Dear STH Community,

In light of recent updates surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and for the safety and well-being of our community, St. Thomas has made the decision to close our campus through Friday, April 3. Our doors will open and classes will resume on Monday, April 6.

Monday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 24 will be student holidays. STH Remote Learning, will begin on Wednesday, March 25. Faculty and staff will be on campus Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, March 24, for professional development and preparations for STH Remote Learning. An email with specific student expectations during this campus closure is forthcoming.

Additionally, we have made the following pre-cautionary decisions to cancel all events scheduled through April 3 until further notice. The “No Visitor Policy” is in effect as of today, Friday, March 13.

We appreciate your continued partnership as we work through COVID-19 together. We understand that COVID-19 is difficult for us all to process and we anticipate questions and challenges, but we invite you to remain in open communication with us. While our campus will be closed, school will remain in session and we are doing our best to ensure this experience is successful for our students.

We continue to follow the guidance and utilize the expertise of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), and the [Harris County Public Health Organization](#). We will closely monitor any recommendations from the CDC or health departments, and will communicate if any changes become necessary.

Thank you for all you do to help keep our community safe and healthy. If you have any concerns that you or a member of your household has been exposed to COVID-19, we ask that you notify the [Dean of Students](#) office immediately. Our highest priority is the physical and emotional health of the students, faculty, staff, and families within the St. Thomas community.

If any other decisions are made, we will plan to notify you as soon as possible.

Regards,

Fr. James Murphy, CSB

President, St. Thomas High School

Dr. Aaron Dominguez

Principal, St. Thomas High School



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### Facility Programming & Visitor Policy

Effective March 13, St. Thomas High School will enforce a no visitor policy until further notice. Restricted campus visitors include:

- Parents (Please drop students off and do not enter the building)
- Campus volunteers
- Non-district workers and/or coaches
- Facilities rentals
- Meal delivery services, etc.

In reference to mailing services (i.e. USPS, FedEx, etc.), we will plan to greet them in the rotunda after they have buzzed the front office. They will not be allowed inside the main building by any means.

Events to be postponed (or cancelled if they cannot be rescheduled):

- All parent-teacher conferences
- All athletic events suspended until further notice
- The SAT scheduled for Saturday, March 14 (Should you have any questions please contact [Chelette.Stephenson@sths.org](mailto:Chelette.Stephenson@sths.org))
- The spring musical scheduled for March 27-29 will be postponed until further notice
- New Eagle Welcome scheduled for March 27 will be cancelled
- Registration night on April 4 will be cancelled

### School-Sponsored Events/Trips

All school-sponsored trips over spring break have been cancelled, including the Honduras mission trip and the Rugby trip to Washington D.C. We will continue to evaluate and monitor in order to determine the cancellation of additional events beyond March 24.

### Family Travel

We urge families to be cautious about travel during spring break and beyond. If you or someone in your household plans to travel to a [CDC Level 2 or 3 location](#), we ask that you notify the [Dean of Students](#) office. Accommodations for make-up work and remote learning alternatives will be handled on a case-by-case basis during any necessary quarantine period. Quarantined students will not be counted as absent and will be able to continue their schoolwork from home with remote learning.



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### **HEALTH TIPS:**

#### **Preventing the Spread of Germs**

Common symptoms of Coronavirus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Transmission of the disease is spread person-to-person through coughing, sneezing, or close contact of others. Please be mindful of the following steps that can be taken at home, and within the community to help protect you and others.

- Please stay at home if you are sick (and avoid contact with people who are sick)
- If you have not received an influenza vaccine, please get one as soon as possible
- Emphasis on frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water
- The use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoiding hand contact with eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your cough with tissue/paper towel or the crook of your elbow
- Frequent wiping of commonly touched surfaces with disinfection supplies
- Do not pass personal electronic devices from one person to another
- Avoid sharing dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, etc. with other people or pets in your home

#### **Cleaning Protocols**

Ongoing maintenance on campus helps to fight the spread of infection as well. Our ground crews continue to:

- Wipe down all handrails with disinfectant at the end of each day
- Clean and disinfect the entrance doors around campus several times a day
- Ensure the kitchen surfaces and cafeteria tables are sprayed and wiped with disinfectant after each lunch period, followed by a deep clean at the end of the day
- Our locker rooms surfaces are also sprayed and wiped down each day with disinfectant
- Finally, the campus undergoes periodic deep cleaning utilizing a third party vendor to apply antimicrobial product to all door handles, desks, handrails, gym equipment, and locker rooms.

In our efforts to prevent the spread of viruses, please refrain from shaking hands, as this is how transmission often occurs. Please find other ways to promote friendliness and care when greeting one another and/or guests you may meet on campus.



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### RESOURCES:

- Harris County Public Health – [COVID-19 Virus](#)
- Harris County Public Health – [COVID-19 Virus Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Center for Disease Control – [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Center for Disease Control – [COVID-19 Virus Transmission Facts](#)