

Dear Students,

It is hard to write this from a distance. The two of us mark most of our days by spending time with, around, and near you, our Brookline High School students. We miss you and are reaching out to check in on a few quick fronts as we begin an unprecedented school closure for at least the next three weeks.

Please know that all of our BHS educators and staff members care about you and worry about how this disruption is affecting each and all of you - your growth and learning, certainly, and also your connection to others, to our community, and to larger teams, performance groups, and the like. It is normal for you to feel a little out of sorts and in need of further clarity and connection.

This afternoon, we are checking in a bit broadly, imagining we will offer further specifics, including guidance and resources, in the next couple days.

### Social Distancing

You probably have heard from your parents and guardians that we need to do everything we can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This means not only closing schools, limiting gathering sizes, and shuttering restaurants but also avoiding socializing beyond our families.

Here is a link to a thoughtful and succinct letter on the need for social distancing by our very own Social Worker and Brookline Teen Center Co-Founder Paul Epstein: [open letter to Brookline Youth](#).

Also check out the great coverage from our very own [Sagamore](#).

Finally, here's an interview senior Zeb Erdos did with a high school student in Italy about many topics, including social distancing: [www.globalvoice.news/home/sofia-cagliero](http://www.globalvoice.news/home/sofia-cagliero).

### Unexpected and Undictated Time Ahead

The next few weeks, and perhaps longer, will give most of you time you never expected to be out of school and unscheduled. This is a unique opportunity to determine your own schedules and, more importantly, choose how you want to spend your hours, days, and weeks. Our deep hope is that you explore topics and disciplines that interest and inspire you. We believe you should be reading and writing some, as well as taking care of yourself and perhaps your families. This self-care should include some exercise: walks, bike rides, yoga and stretching sessions - whatever works best for you and is currently available.

We are working with our curriculum coordinators to prepare some general resources, suggestions, and activities for continuing to think, learn, and grow during this school closure. The first set of these will come tomorrow and will be quite general. We are not trying to continue our Brookline High School courses as though school is continuing. The state has made clear

this is not their expectation and that trying to do this will create access gaps. We do want you to stay tethered to school and engaged in lifelong learning.

Part of lifelong learning entails remaining informed about the world around us. To that end, we are sharing a [link](#) to the *New York Times* that has a free section you can read for updates on the Coronavirus pandemic.

We would suggest that balancing remaining up to date on the Coronavirus with other reading, learning, and thinking is crucial. Some of the news can be overwhelming and even bleak, so find ways to have your minds on other topics in the days and weeks to come.

Student Medicine, Chromebook Loaners, and Grab and Go Breakfasts and Lunches

Superintendent Lummis [communicated](#) this afternoon about meals available for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch as well as how to borrow and pick up a Chromebook if needed. He also shared information on medicine that was left at either our 115 and OLS locations. Given the town and Commonwealth's state of emergencies, any access to our school buildings will be extremely limited. That said, student access to medicines, food, and digital access are important so the district is working on this and has shared plans in the link above.

As we said earlier, more soon from Brookline High School. We are working with our curriculum coordinators across subject areas so that we can offer more learning resources to you and begin to make clearer how school will function during this closure. Look for an additional email tomorrow with some suggestions about how to continue the life of the mind while not in school. We will be working as a faculty, staff, and administration to follow up on tomorrow's communication early next week (3/23-27) with further suggestions and resources for you to continue to learn and think while not working within the walls of Old Lincoln School and our 115 Greenough Street location.

In the meantime, we miss you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Meyer & Mr. Mason