



**Message from the Principal
to O'Connor Frog Families
March 23, 2020**

Greetings, O'Connor Frog Family.

As I'm sure you are aware, on March 17, 2020 the Victoria ISD announced that our schools would suspend face-to-face instruction until which time it is deemed safe for students and staff to return. In the days following, Texas Governor, Greg Abbott ordered all Texas schools close through April 3rd. These are definitely unprecedented times for our country, state, and local communities as we do our part in the nationwide movement to exercise the practice of "social distancing" to limit exposure and transmission of the COVID-19 virus. While the suspension of face-to-face instruction means that students and staff will not be gathering together in physical classrooms, it does not mean that expectations for instruction and learning have been suspended.

So, what does that mean for our O'Connor Frog Family? For the O'Connor Staff, it means so many things, but first and foremost, it means that you are on our hearts and in our minds daily. It means that we will all learn to operate in ways that we are not accustomed to with optimism and hope. It means that we will be innovative and creative in our efforts to deliver comfort and support while also ensuring opportunities for your child to participate in high-quality, remote learning. It means that we miss you desperately and that we are actively searching for ways to interact each of you while we are away from the school building.

VISD and O'Connor Elementary staff are committed to, first, ensuring your basic needs are met. Meal distribution for any child, age 1 – 18 will be provided, beginning March 23rd. There will be 5 locations where your child can receive breakfast and lunch. Please note, any child receiving a meal pack must be present in the vehicle at the distribution site. If you are without transportation, please contact our Parent Liaison, Ms. Deobra Dugie at 361.788.9572 for support in accessing the meals for your children.

MEAL DISTRIBUTION

STARTING MARCH 23*

For *any* student
18 or under, and
any special
needs students
up to 21.

Students must
be present in
the vehicle.



Drive-Thru Locations

Rowland Elementary
Shields Elementary
Hopkins Elementary
Aloe Elementary
Stroman Middle School*

Breakfast

7:30 - 9:30 am

Lunch

10:30 - 12:30 pm

10:30 - 1 pm* (Stroman)

As an O'Connor Frogs, we are defined by our character and core values, especially during times when we are asked to work outside of our traditional classrooms and our comfort zones. Our core values will be the very thing that helps us navigate these unusual times. O'Connor Frogs are:

F – Fearless

R – Resilient

O – Open-Minded

G – Goal-Focused

S – Scholars

The word "**fearless**" is an adjective that means being bold, brave, and courageous. It means that we are ready and willing to accept this new challenge of practicing adequate safety at home and in our community while optimistically engaging in a new way of mastering skills and leaping at the chance to be motivated learners.

The core value of resiliency will be especially useful while we adapt to this new way of doing things. **Resilient** means we are strong, tough, and hardy. It means that we will be able to endure difficult times without permanent damage and will bounce back quickly and be even stronger and more *fearless* than before.

Being **open-minded** is a trait that all O'Connor Frogs will need to possess. It means that we possess a willingness to try new things or consider new ideas. Remote learning will definitely require us to be willing to try new things and accept responsibility for participating in a very

new and different way. Being open-minded means that we have a choice in our mindset. As O'Connor Frogs, we choose OPTIMISM. We embrace the new challenge with determination for success.

Goal-Focused means that you know what needs to be done in order to complete the work and earn promotion to the next grade level. Personally, your goal is to commit to learning something new every day. Your teachers will send you lesson choices and expectations for completing and submitting your work. Being goal-focused means, you will schedule your time each day to engage in the learning process and in doing so, prepare yourselves for the requirements of the next grade level. But more importantly, it means that you are committed to being a scholar.

And, finally, **scholar**. A scholar is someone who learns by actively engaging in study and practice while working toward mastery of skills and retention of knowledge. A scholar accepts the challenge of learning and is fearless in their efforts. A scholar is resilient, even when the work is challenging. A scholar is open-minded to remote learning and feels comfortable reaching out to their teacher for help and support. A scholar is goal-focused and feels responsible for completing the assignments and earning promotion.

This week, March 23 – 27, O'Connor Elementary school will be closed to all except for staff. Your child's teacher and the O'Connor Staff will be working fearlessly to plan instruction and learning opportunities for your child while also practicing and adhering to the recommended "social distancing" guidelines. During this week, you can expect to receive edulink messages, emails, Remind App message, and phone calls in an effort to effectively communicate with and reach ALL of our O'Connor Frog Family Members. Together, we can do this!

Thank you for your patience and support as we work together as a Frog Community to keep everyone safe. In advance, I want to also thank you, FROG Parents, in your efforts at home in helping provide our students with continuity of education during this closure period. Your child's teacher will be personally reaching out to you this week with more information about the Remote Learning Launch.

As this message is being prepared, I am experiencing a range of emotions that I'm sure you are feeling as well. I miss my daily hugs, hand-shakes, and fist-bumps with our "scholars"! I miss the smiles that I've grown so accustomed to. I even miss the occasional "grumpy greetings" that I considered personal challenges. I miss the warm greetings with parents, grandparents, and guardians. I miss the comfort of knowing what tomorrow brings. But with each of those thoughts, comes an opportunity to do my best by you and for you. This week, March 23 – 27, will be about addressing each of those feelings through thoughtful planning, continuous

communication, and consideration for what we are facing as a community. This week, our O'Connor Staff will be Fearless, Resilient, Open-Minded, and Goal-Focused as we plan for the March 30th launch of O'Connor Elementary's Remote Learning Plan for our Scholars.

Stay safe and well. Please take this week away from instructional expectation to enjoy some quality time with your family and know we are working hard for you.

Sincerely,

Dionne Hughes
O'Connor Elementary Principal