



March 27, 2020

Dear ALH Staff, Students, and Families:

Today, Governor Cuomo announced that he is extending his previous Executive Order and schools will remain closed until April 15th. During this time, there are still no classes or school activities, and the building remains closed to students and visitors.

We are happy to report that, at this time, ALH still does not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19, and we continue to ask that you direct any medical questions or concerns to your family doctor or healthcare provider.

We understand that this unprecedented school closure has created stress and anxiety for all members of our ALH community, on one level or another, and more so for some than others. We have tried to respond quickly to the rapid changes and ever-growing severity of the coronavirus situation, locally and statewide. Our dedicated staff, students, and families, from day one, mobilized, easing this transition, and have made every effort to ensure that all of our students have access to distance learning; and we will continue these efforts daily throughout the duration of the closure.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge just some of this hard work and the dedicated people who have taken on the challenge, putting ALH ahead of many other schools in the face of this crisis. First, I'd like to acknowledge and applaud the commitment of our food services staff for preparing menus and meals daily for our students and families. Not only have they strived to be thoughtful in their selections, they have worked every day, reporting to the building to prepare the meals, distribute the meals, and ensure that the kitchen is clean and ready for the next day. Those of us who are largely working remotely, are ever mindful of this and are grateful and appreciative.

Our Office Staff, Culture Team, and Student Support Team have been integral to this process and transition, being available for assistance and support in ensuring access to technology. They have reported to our building to facilitate the distribution of Chromebooks to students, provided access to lockers, and assisted with meals, as well as many other tasks, and always with a smile and willingness to help out with anything. In addition, they are working remotely with one another, and reaching out to students and families who had not responded previously. Our Collegebound staff and Social Worker have also participated in these efforts, and have acted as liaisons between students, families, and teachers to ensure that they have the knowledge and necessary access to participate in their distance learning classrooms. They have also continually sought out and made certain that students are aware of the resources available to them through ALH and in their own communities.

I am extremely proud of our ALH teachers, who with very short notice, have been able to develop a robust digital distance learning curriculum and experience for our students. Entering this closure, our teachers had varying levels of experience with Google Classroom



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and Google Meet, not to mention the myriad other digital learning platforms out there. However, regardless of their own levels of experience, they have stepped up and in only one week's time, with the support of their Instructional Supervisors, have created virtual and interactive classrooms, and our students are not only participating, but are engaged in an online learning experience that continues to be aligned with grade level standards and expectations.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not also acknowledge my leadership team, who has collaborated with and among these teams, and each other. They have facilitated and supported all of this and are always accepting of any challenge they are faced with. It is under their leadership that ALH continues to meet the challenges we face, exceed expectations, and thrive in the face of adversity.

And it is the tenacity and resilience of our entire ALH Community that will see us through this challenge as well, and I know that we will come out of this as even greater leaders and an exemplar for success.

As always, we will continue to communicate with staff, students, and families via One Call and social media. Please also visit our website, www.albanyleadershiphigh.org, for updates and relevant information specific to ALH and for further details and updates on the school closure.

For additional important information, you may access guidance and updates from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/>), the NYSDOH (<https://www.health.ny.gov/>), or you may call 1-888-364-3065 for the Coronavirus Hotline.

Again, and always, thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation. Be safe and be well. We are ALH strong.

Sincerely,

Cariña D. Cook
Principal/CEO



Please see reminders below:

Breakfast and Lunch for Students

Grab-and-go lunch and breakfast program offered daily and is available to everyone under the age of 18.

Lunch for the current day and breakfast for the following day is available for pick up throughout the closure from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Signage is posted, directing students and families to the location where meals can be picked up, and ALH staff are available for assistance, if needed.

Instructional Resources for Students

Distance Learning for all classes started on Thursday, March 19th. All classes for all students are continuing via Google Classroom and Google Meet throughout the school closure.

All students should have received invites and access codes for their classes through their ALH Gmail for Google Classroom. If you are experiencing any difficulty whatsoever in accessing all Google Classrooms, please reach out to your teachers directly, or contact the ALH main number for assistance at (518) 694-5300.

Chromebooks are available for sign-out and pick up by appointment. If you are in need of a Chromebook, please call the ALH main number.

Free WiFi Access

Spectrum is offering free Internet access to Capital Region households due to the COVID-19 outbreak and school closures. The 60-day offer is available to households that are not already Spectrum customers.

Call 844-488-8395 to enroll and for more information.

Spring Athletics

All scrimmages and contests are canceled through April 19th.