



Dear Families,

"The Importance of a Strong Community"

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been continually amazed by the creativity, generosity, patience, and hard work of the people in our HDS community. Furthermore, as we develop new routines, enhance our flexible mindsets, and adapt to new strategies to navigate our modern and somewhat unknown environments, I am confident that our resilience, determination, and community spirit will provide a pillar of fortitude throughout this pandemic.

I wanted to take this opportunity to stress the importance of community and teamwork. A great deal of energy will center on "Building a Strong Community." Each member of the Hancock Day School community has a critical role in making the school a great place. There are countless examples that occur daily at Hancock which capture the beautiful spirit and caring soul of the community. I would ask you to help me to encourage, support, and grow this caring and positive community spirit to the highest levels possible in the coming weeks. We certainly are a school that cares about each child's journey today, tomorrow, and in the foreseeable future.

One aspect you may realize about me is that I am fond of sharing stories. Storytelling is a powerful tool that has been around for centuries, and many cultures use stories to create colorful and animated images. Accounts have a remarkable ability to create memorable impressions and highlight valuable lessons that last a lifetime.

I want to share one familiar story with you as it relates to the journey we are about to embark on together. The following story illustrates the notion that it takes a community to raise a school.

“A hungry and homeless traveler went door to door in a village looking for food. Again and again, he was turned away until finally, one villager offered him a pot and some water. He gratefully accepted the water and pot and announced that he was going to make stone soup. After he lit a fire, several villagers gathered around as they were curious about what he was doing. He placed a “magic stone” in the boiling water and announced that he was making stone soup. The traveler explained that, although the soup would be tasty, it would be even better if he could add an onion or a potato or some vegetables. One by one, the villagers contributed ingredients to the pot until it became a delicious soup, enough to feed the entire village.”

The moral is that by working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a greater good is achieved.

In the spirit of the story, I know that our journey together is vital in making sure that we continue to create success stories for each child within our community. I am asking each and everyone who is a part of the HDS community to contribute their patience, heart, partnership, and prayers to our Eagle Soup.

As we look to the time when we can open our doors once again, I know that everyone on our faculty and staff could not be more excited about seeing the hallways filled with all of the energy, enthusiasm, and smiling faces of our students.

With gratitude,

Jim