



New Horizons Charter Academy

IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT – Due to the increase in COVID infections and hospitalizations in Los Angeles County and statewide, here are important updates for all New Horizons Charter Academy students and families.

This decision comes as a tremendous disappointment for the many teachers, administrators and support staff, who were looking forward to welcoming students and teachers back in August. The skyrocketing infection rates of the past few weeks make it clear the pandemic is not under control. Therefore, we are announcing that the new school year will start online only. Instruction will resume on August 10 at New Horizons Charter Academy. New Horizons Charter Academy will continue planning for a return to in-person learning during the 2020-21 academic year, as soon as public health conditions allow. New Horizons Charter Academy understands that the state of affairs in California and the choice to have to delay the reopening in a few weeks is an even greater disappointment to the many parents who are eager for their students to resume their education. NHCA cannot begin to understand the implications of this continued closure on your children, socially and emotionally. No one should use the delay in the reopening of classrooms as a reason to relax. New research is available, additional information on school safety experiences from around the world, and updated health guidelines from state and county leaders. Unfortunately, much of the research is incomplete and many of the guidelines are vague and contradictory. The coronavirus has not taken a summer vacation, as many had hoped. Indeed, the virus has accelerated its attacks on our community. The federal government must provide schools with the resources we need to reopen in a responsible manner. In the past four months, we have provided more than 5,000 meals to families, distributed more than 200 computers to students and trained our teachers and support staff in online learning. In the weeks ahead, we will continue to provide professional development for our staff and support to our students and parents through workshops, Zoom trainings, student protocols and norms.

- The new school year starts on Monday, August 10. At that time, all New Horizon Charter Academy sites will start school ONLINE using distance learning instructional models.
- Teachers will receive expanded training in online education to better meet the needs of students.
- Students will receive additional training at the start of the year to become better online learners.
- Online supports for parents will be increased to make it easier for them to participate in the education of their students.

- School Administration will continue customized planning for the safest possible reopening this fall.
- NHCA will resume its meal program for our students on August 10th. NHCA will serve the grab and go meals from 9am to 12pm.
- NHCA will be in contact with families to provide more information on next steps and what distance learning will look like for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.
- In the future, once State and Public Health Officials begin to identify a downward trend in hospitalizations and confirmed cases of COVID infections, schools may start to reopen in a phased approach.

On Friday, the American Academy of Pediatrics reversed course and said it was no longer confident that opening schools in the middle of a public health crisis is the best option for children. That reversal symbolizes the speed with which schools continue to receive vague and conflicting information from the medical and scientific communities. It is clear that New Horizons Charter Academy will need to create its own source for reliable scientific information. New Horizons Charter Academy will provide more detailed information about both online and at-school programs in the coming weeks, with final plans by the first week in August. New Horizons Charter Academy plans to provide a public assessment on August 10 of how soon (after the first week of school) a physical return to class would be possible.

SAVE-THE-DATE – PARENT/STUDENT COMMUNITY FORUMS – FRIDAY, JULY 31

We invite you to participate in our virtual Community Forums to share input on distance learning and to identify ways that New Horizons Charter Academy may be able to provide assistance:

- Friday, July 31 – 11 a.m. - Noon
- Friday, July 31 – 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- *NOTE: Both forums will provide the same content.

IMPORTANT – The instructions to access the forums will be released on Wednesday, July 29.

Participants will hear from New Horizons Charter Academy Executive Director/Principal Richard Thomas with more information on distance learning program. This is also an opportunity to provide Mr. Thomas with feedback on what works well and what can be improved in an effort to identify how New Horizons Charter Academy can support you in a distance learning environment.

Mr. Thomas, M.Ed.
New Horizons Charter Academy
Executive Director/Principal