Good evening Falcon Families!

With a heavy heart, we received notice this week that school campuses will remain closed for the remainder of the Spring semester. This was disappointing news for everyone who held out hope that the pandemic would retreat to levels where we could resume our routines. Unfortunately, with the announcement, we realized Friday, March 13, 2020 was the last time students and staff would meet at 20300 Herriman Avenue for the 2019-2020 school year. This also indicated the Spring Sports season was over.

For our Seniors, we are committed to doing what we can to find ways to celebrate you and your achievements. At this moment, we have nothing more than ideas, but over Spring Break and the next couple of weeks, site Admin, staff, students, and parents will be involved in figuring out the details. In fact, on Thursday a district steering committee comprised of students, staff, and administrators from both LGHS and SHS met to start brainstorming ideas for what graduation might look like given the extended school closure that was announced through the end of the school year.

In the meantime, this past week was our second week of learning how to do distance learning. Some of our teachers and students took to online teaching and learning like fish to water; others are practicing their growth mindset and learning from their experiences and struggles. When we announced the “Just Learn It” theme for this year, none of us imagined circumstances such as these, but “Just Learn It” turns out to be quite apropos. For my staff, and especially my teachers, they are learning how to transition from the traditional experience of school to the demands of virtual classrooms--learning how to communicate their expectations for assignments and activities, learning how to assess what students learned, learning how to interact with their students, and learning how to manage their personal and professional responsibilities during a “Shelter-in-Place” order. For our students, it’s glaringly obvious that a student could cheat themselves, their peers, and their teachers by not authentically approaching assessments and activities and failing to demonstrate what they learned. “Just Learn It” speaks to the challenge for students to demonstrate integrity and approach the content with a genuine desire to learn and retain the information rather than cut corners and fake their way through.

For the past three weeks (or more) we have been processing this pandemic and how it is affecting our routines, families, and friends. For next week, during our Spring Break, I hope you step away from your laptop, computer, or mobile device and spend quality time with family, read a book, complete Sudoku or word search pages, build something, and find time to be mindful of your thoughts and feelings. Please continue to abide by the County’s order of shelter-in-place. Please continue to wash your hands and maintain social distancing. As inconvenient and uncomfortable as these circumstances are, there is no desire to compound the situation coping with the sadness of friends or family afflicted with COVID-19.

Best wishes and we will resume academic activities on Monday, April 13.
**Dress Up Days:** Thanks for the wonderful participation for Dress Up days this past week. Lots of great pictures are on the Instagram at “Togaspirit.” We will be hosting a 2nd dress up week when we come back from Spring Break.

**Tik Tok contest:** SHS Dance Commission hosted a Tik Tok contest for students last week. Shahmun Jafri, the “Junior Group,” and Juan Vintimilla won the contest.

Class Officers are posting daily and weekly birthday announcements, hosting Netflix Watch Parties, hosting Trivia Night with Mr. T, and thinking of new ways to connect to each other daily.

**Local Eats:** SHS Outreach is hosting a contest for students to support local restaurants. Please obey the county "shelter-in-place" directive and only order take-out or have the food delivered. Take the picture from your own home and send your pictures to saratogaoutreachshs@gmail.com for a chance of a $25 gift card to a local restaurant.

**Social Media Links**
As we are hosting more activities on social media, here is a link to all the social media sites we can put together. Social media sites are not primary sources of announcements, that will be through school emails, this newsletter, and the school website. However, students often post content on social media sites.

**Leadership Class Applications**
Want to be a part of the leadership class? We are accepting applications for commissions. The commissions you can apply to include Spirit (includes homecoming), Rally, Outreach, and Dance.

**Leadership Class Application form**
**Leadership Class Commission descriptions**

Applications are due by midnight on April 5th and can be electronically turned in by sharing to saratogaasb20@gmail.com. Teacher recommendations will not be required. After you submit your application, ASB will contact you to schedule an interview. If you decide to apply for the Rally commission, Rally Head Commissioners will contact you for a separate interview.

Feel free to message any of the ASB officers (Cynthia Zhang, Erica Lee, Katie Chen, Derek Hsu, Arnav Mangal.)
SHS TV Episode for the Week of March 30, 2020
Here is the most recent episode of the SHS TV Broadcast for the week of March 30.

MAP Seniors Fundraiser for Direct Relief
The MAP seniors have started a fundraiser for Direct Relief which is an organization (with a 98.4% rating on Charity Navigator) which is coordinating domestically and globally to provide personal protective equipment and essential medical items to health workers responding to coronavirus (COVID-19). In the U.S., Direct Relief is delivering protective masks – along with exam gloves, isolations gowns, and other protective gear to healthcare organizations across the country. Direct Relief is also staging personal protective equipment with regional response agencies across the world, including in the Caribbean and South America through the Pan American Health Organization. Here is the link on Facebook.

Cheerleading Tryouts
Interested in cheering for SHS next year? Male and female students wanted, no experience necessary. There is an informational meeting Thursday, 4/30 at 6pm on a Google Meet. Virtual tryouts will be Tuesday-Thursday (5/12-5/14) at 5:45 on Google Meet. Email coachcmiller@lgsuhsd.org and follow @saratogacheer on instagram for more info.

Color Guard Information
Add Guard to your 2020-2021 school year activities at Saratoga High School! Do you like to dance or do gymnastics? Maybe you want to learn how to toss a flag, rifle or sabre, while earning PE credit at the same time? Sign up for Fall Color Guard and/or Winter Guard at Saratoga High School next year. No experience necessary. Want to know more about Guard? Check out one of our Fall shows here and two of our Winter shows here and here! Contact Mr. Ford at aford@lgsuhsd.org for more questions or to sign up!

Sources of Strength Social Media Campaign
Peer and Adult Leaders in Sources of Strength are conducting their first Social Media campaign. As we remind ourselves to access a combination of our strengths (Family Support, Positive Friends, Mentors, Healthy Activities, Generosity, Spirituality (includes Gratitude), Medical Access, and Mental Health) during this time of great change and uncertainty, it is also important to acknowledge all the feelings that are floating around us. Once we do that, we are better able to figure out which strengths we need to activate, so that we make choices about how we want to live, be, and interact with our world. Sources of Strength would love for you to join them! Simply print a copy of the feelings ball, and color it in. If your whole family completes it, it could be a great starting point for discussions. If you’d like to increase your participation in the campaign, post the blank sheet on the Social Media outlet of your choice. Use the hashtags #SHSFalconsSourcesofStrength and #WhatHelpsUS, along with any others you feel appropriate. Sources of Strength hopes that you’re using this time to activate your Family Supports, in addition to other strengths as we learn and grow together. Look for additional campaigns to help students and families focus on #WhatHelpsUs in the weeks to come.
Link Crew Applications
Looking for a way to get more involved with your school? Join Link Crew for a fun way to become a part of the SHS community! You can apply online today through April 17. Application can be found here or at SaratogaHigh.org (Student Life -> Student Leadership Opportunities). Want to know more about Link Crew? Learn what Link Crew is all about here and check out these Link Crew Roles, Responsibilities, & Qualifications. Please email Mrs. Ginestet-Araki (ginestetaraki@lgsuhsd.org) if you have any questions about the program or the application process!

CANVAS
Parents can create a Canvas account to observe their student's courses. Please follow the Parent Portal Instructions to create your account. You can ask your student to generate a pairing code, or contact your school counselor for help. Other “How To” tutorials can be found here.

School Closure Guidance FAQ
Guidance counselors regularly update an FAQ during this school closure period. Check it out!

Changes to AP Testing
On Friday, April 3, College Board released additional information regarding how they will administer online AP exams this year. Please contact Kathy Sheridan (ksheridan@lgsuhsd.org) if your student needs a Chromebook to take the exam.

Some quick details:
- Exams will be May 11th through May 22nd. Late testing is June 1st through June 5th.
- All students across the country will take the same AP exam at the same time.
- Students will receive a personalized login credential from College Board for each exam.
- Most exams will be online and take 45 minutes.
- Approved accommodations will be automatically added to a student’s exam session.
- College Board is waiving the Exam Cancellation Fee of $40.
- Free College Board AP review material can be found on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement

Here’s the link to all of the details from the College Board.

Yearbook Sales
To order a copy of the 2020 Talisman yearbook, families can now order online using our Saratoga High School webstore!! Please click here to access our webstore and order your yearbook. If your student already has an ASB package, they automatically get a yearbook. Please order your yearbook now to ensure your student a copy when the books are distributed in late May. Only those who preorder a book are guaranteed a copy of the Talisman during distribution.
A Message to Families during COVID-19 from Dr. Denise Pope

Saratoga High School has enjoyed a long partnership with Dr. Denise Pope, a leading educational researcher based at Stanford. Over ten years ago, she studied our student population and helped us navigate through the mounting stress facing students at all levels of academic achievement. Based on that research, she helped to develop the Challenge Success Program, which we then joined. She now offers words of wisdom to our families in her latest message about how to navigate new expectations and new schedules in this era of remote learning. As someone who knows our community and communities like ours well, we welcome her insights. Please take a minute to read her thoughts and talk about it with your family members: The Message

Wellness Center Happenings from Ms. Barnes

Taarika Foundation has generously donated the funds in order for our students to benefit from Vivensity’s “imSparked” SEL tool. imSparked contains a library of videos on topics that are highly relevant to a high school student’s life. Mrs. Fan has been incorporating this tool into her Chinese curriculum, asking students to watch certain videos and then reflect on their learning in Chinese as best as they can.

We may need this tool more than ever during this highly unusual time. If your student has a bit of time to try this tool and give us some feedback, it would be greatly appreciated! Please email Rita Sarathy directly to receive a free personal account for your student.