



April 6, 2020

Dear Parents:

We hope that you are doing well and that your families are also. We, at CAST Med High School, miss our students and want you to know that we are an email, phone call or *REMIND101* text away and ready to help in any way we can. Our counselor, Mrs. Chavez, is readily available to assist, too. Her monthly posting can be found in our school's website (<https://schools.saisd.net/page/028.homepage>) on the left, under the *Counselors Corner* section.

This weekend our lifeline of communication to you, *REMIND101* app, deleted all our parents and students and after many attempts, I was not able to retrieve anything. I am asking that you please enroll again. This time however, there will be TWO *REMIND101*s: one for students ONLY and one for Parents ONLY. This will hopefully prevent us from having over 150 participants all in one link and will hopefully solve our problem. The links below will help you enroll.

- Students ONLY: <https://remind.com/join/castmed10>
- Parents ONLY: <https://www.remind.com/joincastmed10t> (Notice this link is almost identical as the one for students, except it as has "t" at the end.)

I want to thank you for being such amazing parents and ensuring that your son/daughter ZOOMs in to meet virtually with his/her teachers at the designated times and for checking that they are completing their assignments to submit when due. The State is changing how they deal with this and we want to make sure our students get the credits they earn during this time with no surprises in the end.

Our plan for dealing with the COVID-19 Challenge is posted in our school website and allows students more than enough time to submit work. It was planned to be totally different than a regular school day, because this virus event has led us to teach in a totally different manner. On a regular school week, our students would normally be physically attending school a total of 37.5 hours per week (Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:00PM). With our COVID-19 Learning Plan, students only virtually meet with each teacher for 30 minutes per week, a total of 6 hours (Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8:30AM-11:30AM) for direct instruction. Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, students work on their own, knowing that they can ALWAYS contact their teachers for any assistance on any day of the week via email. Teachers are available for tutoring, specifically on Thursdays, at times set on the schedule, but they are always available at any time to help; students only need to email them.

Students should be visiting their teachers' Google Classrooms for listed assignments daily. Teachers have included the dates the work is assigned; the dates the work is due; and the length of time for students to complete their assignments, which is normally one entire week or more. Our plan is such that all concerns regarding what research indicates should be included, have been. Some of my Principal colleagues in other high schools have asked for this plan and are using something similar as to not overexert our students and teachers. One of the big advantages of CAST Med High School is that all our students have been using Google Classroom since the beginning of the school year because they have been exposed to their Chromebooks early on.

Again, if there is anything that we can do to help or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or the teachers. We are always here to help.

Wishing all your family good health and safety,

Eddie Muzquiz Rodriguez PhD

Principal