

Dear HRMS Families,

This edition of the HRMS News contains information on a new, Weekly Principal's Video Message and Google Meets Cameras

Weekly Principal's Video

We have a weekly address by the principals during Comprehensive Distance Learning. This message is about 10 minutes long and directed towards our students and families. It is shown to our students during Advisory Group on Monday. The message will be posted with a Spanish edition on our website later that week. Here is our first production that features an introduction of our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Garrett Apland. Please check it out here [Weekly Principal's Video Message](#) !

Camera Expectation

We are blessed to have so many new and exciting challenges with comprehensive distance learning! One of the first difficulties we are encountering is having so many students choosing to turn off their cameras during instruction. We spent the first week of school encouraging kids to keep the cameras on during direct learning. We appear to be reaching a critical point as other students who kept their cameras on are now turning them off (like the other students...). One teacher describes teaching with the cameras off as similar to that famous scene from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* "Bueller, Bueller, Bueller" link here <https://youtu.be/f4zyjLyBp64>

Students turning off their cameras during class time has created many problems because;

- Non-verbal communication is a big part of COMMUNICATION
- Good teaching requires continual feedback to monitor and adjust instructional pacing
- Good teaching = student learning
- Our mission as a school is all about student learning
- Creating community involves seeing each other
- Creating community is an essential part of a successful school and **happy students**
- Students may choose to have their cameras on but pointed towards a wall if they feel uncomfortable. We need a way for them to demonstrate comprehension and show presence while in class.

I encourage you to watch my explanation of this policy to our students. It starts at 6 minutes, 25 seconds. We appreciate your help in reiterating the importance of this new policy!

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or words of praise for the people and programs of Hood River Middle School. Have a great evening.

Brent

Brent M. Emmons, Principal

Hood River Middle School