Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

By the order of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, the campuses of Auburn City Schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Although students will not return to their school building, Auburn City Schools will implement a distance learning plan for all students beginning April 6, 2020. In an effort to ensure success, the school system has designated the week of March 30-April 3 as a practice week of distance learning to help both teachers and families uncover and solve as many obstacles related to distance learning as possible. Parents and families should communicate to teachers any difficulties in accessing learning opportunities and resources so that appropriate adjustments or accommodations can be made.

The distance learning plan will provide instruction for the six-week period from April 6th through May 15th. Critical content standards have been prioritized for the duration of this school year in each class and course. An important goal is finding the appropriate balance between the distance learning workload and necessary mastery for the next level of learning. Beginning March 29, teachers will communicate individual class and course plans to students and parents for the upcoming week, including next week's practice week, by late afternoon each Sunday. Teachers will require two assessments or checkpoints per course per week to monitor learning progress.

Students and parents should be available the week of May 18-22 to complete any missed assignments, to turn in textbooks and technology, and to finalize any end of year logistics.

Educators are working diligently to make this transition as meaningful and relevant for learning as possible. While the above plan communicates an instructional approach to the current health crisis, we are mindful that the health and safety, both physical and emotional, of students and families are most important right now. Auburn City Schools is committed to an instructional partnership and to making this plan work for our students.

With gratitude for your unwavering support, we wish to express our appreciation for your assistance in implementing the ACS distance learning plan. It is our hope that students will acquire important life skills such as adaptability, perseverance, and problem solving in addition to the critical content for their subjects and courses. Please know that our teachers, counselors, and administrative team stand ready to assist as we work together to complete our 2019-2020 school year.

Cristen Herring, Ph.D.

March 27, 2020