



*Principal: Mrs. Ronnetta Simpson*

To My Marvelous Raider Students & Families,

The news of school closing for the remainder of the school year was not the news we were expecting. While we can all agree it is the smartest and best decision for our safety, it doesn't make the shock less shocking and for our seniors the sting any less painful. I know you all have lots of questions, and unfortunately, at this time, I do not have the answers. I am confident that our competent district leaders will make the best decisions in the interest of our students. As I gather details, I will relay them to you immediately.

Students, at this time, I encourage you to finish this week strong by continuing to put your best foot forward. Continue logging in daily and working on your assignments. Next week is spring break! Please take the much needed time off to relax, reflect, and rejuvenate. We will resume our Digital Learning classes on Monday, April 13th.

To my seniors and senior parents, graduating from high school is something you have all been working towards for 13 years, and yesterday's news was especially difficult for you. I hope you all know how much I, along with the rest of EPH staff, care for each of you and that we share in your disappointment with this circumstance.

As you all know, I think of you as my own... as I affectionately call you "my babies". Like your maternal parents, my heart hurts for you, and I just want to make it better. After processing and realizing the decision was final, I began thinking of what I could possibly say to keep you inspired and to let you know everything is going to be ok. The only thing that kept coming to my mind is the quote we have used all year long. "We will make the positive so LOUD, the negative will be impossible to hear." This quote is so fitting for where we are now. I can only imagine the mixed emotions you are all feeling and like Kendal Deavers says, "It's ok not to be ok." What I want you to know is that no matter what you are feeling, we are here, we care, and we will get through this together and be better and stronger for it.

The reality is these are the cards we have been dealt. We now have choices. We can either choose to play the game of life or disengage. Our choices when faced with adversity ultimately define us. The easy choice is to remain upset, frustrated and just say forget it. The hard choice is having the courage to accept the reality and look for solutions to make sure we end this year in the best possible way. My hope today and every day is for you to always choose the hard no over the easy yes. I hope you will choose to silence the negative and find the positive in this and any adverse situation you may encounter.

I want you to concentrate on all of the good things that have happened over the past four years: your friends, your teachers, your favorite classes, fun you had at various school events, playing or watching athletic events, fun with various clubs and organizations, and even our corny MARVELOUS themes. I hope these things have brought a smile to your face. These are things that will forever connect us and make us ONE MARVELOUS RAIDER. The only way we can get through this is together.

Making memories does not have to stop because of our current circumstance. I will be meeting with our senior leaders and parents to brainstorm ways to make new memories. We are Raider Strong, We are One Raider, We are Marvelous.

I love you all! Until we see each other again! Stay healthy and stay home!

*Mrs. Simpson*