

Dear Seniors:

18 March 2020

Thanks for the chance to teach you. While we've had some ninth-grade tape-throwing and a more recent lapse of judgment I won't mention, it has been delightful to see all of you grow in the depth of your reading and in the specificity and power of your writing. You are almost launched!

But now, this spring, we have a different opportunity for learning. To start with, there are some independent projects you have already had the instruction for, and I would like you to read one more book—my favorite book of all, as it happens—this spring before you go.

Some of the school calendar is ambiguous. Please be patient with the school administration as we figure out the best course of action to augment your learning while also giving you time for reflection and to help your families. (If you want to keep a journal of this period for extra credit, I am open to that idea if you have completed other major assignments. Details forthcoming.)

Please also know that while I have made a calendar for assignments and grades will count for the third and fourth quarters, I understand that these are strange times and you may find yourself unable to work for a spell. If a crisis emerges, please let me know so that we can work out a reasonable solution. Please don't disappear. While I have many flaws, I am able to work nonjudgmentally with students who show up with late work and solve problems with students who ask for my help. Please ask for what you need.

The Weebly website, [cheriewalsh.weebly.com](http://cheriewalsh.weebly.com), should be your first stopping place when you have questions about what is due and when. Please put major deadlines, including Zoom calls, on your calendar so that you can see conflicts or logjams coming and can alert teachers or work ahead. You may also, of course, send me an email or a text with a question or other school business.

Please remember the basic premises of Brookewood's approach to academics during this time: English and math get special emphasis because they are the core skills, and other classes should enrich your learning overall. Please work in as focused a way as possible, to read and think and refine your skills as you finish your work this spring.

Know that you and your families are in my prayers.

Mrs. Walsh