

CENTER STAGE



sharing, caring,
and learning for life



APRIL
2020

**NO ENTRANCE TO OUR SCHOOL,
YET...**

**LOTS OF LEARNING TAKING PLACE!
THANK YOU PARENTS
FOR PARTNERING WITH US!**



See more pictures of our colts learning at home inside this newsletter.

Center Street Information

BUILDING DOORS WILL BE LOCKED

As part of the District-wide security system and our emphasis on safety, the building doors will be locked during the day. Both of the main lobby entrance doors have a white box. Please push the button, wait for a response and you will be buzzed into the building. We may ask you to look toward the camera or identify yourself by speaking into the white box. Once you enter the building, please report directly to the office to sign in and pick up a visitor's badge. You will need to be buzzed in for you to enter the office. Please push the door once you hear the buzz noise.

Visitors to the Schools – to maintain a safe place for our children to work and learn, certain limits must be set for visits by parents and other agencies. For these reasons, the following rules apply to ALL visitors to the school:

Access to the elementary building will be through the **main entrance ONLY** beginning at 7:45 AM.

ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTERING THE BUILDING TO RECEIVE A VISITOR'S PASS WHICH MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN THE SCHOOL OR ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Also, as parents arrive in the morning with children, please remain in the lobby area. Children must learn to proceed to their room on their own.

Teachers are expected NOT to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.

Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public such as parent teacher organization (PTO) meetings or public gatherings are not required to register.

Any consumables (food, beverages, etc.) brought in by visitors are subject to search and / or inspection. *Please note these district rules are approved by the Horseheads Board of Education. These safety procedures need your support. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please call the office. Thank you in advance for your help and support with keeping safety a priority.*

GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOM PARTIES / CELEBRATIONS

Following the below practices will help to protect your children against food-borne illness. If bringing food to your child's class such as drinks, cakes or pastries, the following guidelines should be used:

Please notify the teacher and get their permission first. Immediately after cooking, if possible, items should be wrapped individually (i.e. cookies, muffins, cupcakes, etc.). The Chemung County Health department makes these additional requests:

COLD FOODS SHOULD BE REFRIGERATED IMMEDIATELY AND HELD BELOW 45 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. HANDS SHOULD BE WASHED BEFORE FOOD PREP AND THEN YOU SHOULD NOT TOUCH FOODS AFTER THEY ARE COOKED. GLOVES, TONGS OR DELI PAPER SHOULD BE USED SO THERE IS NO BAREHANDED CONTACT WITH FOOD AFTER PREPARATION.

****TEACHERS DO NOT HAVE KNIVES OR UTENSILS IN THE CLASSROOM-SO PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL TREATS ARE PRE-CUT OR INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED.***

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL - If a student needs any form of medication at school, a written physician's prescription and written parental consent are necessary. Any medication should be brought in the original container to the health office by an adult where it will be stored and dispensed. Please contact Mrs. Reazor with further questions, please call the office at 795-2580.

APPR of Teacher and Principals -The District is required to implement Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals. The outcome of the APPR is that each teacher and principal will receive an Overall Composite Rating based upon Observation and Student Performance scores. The four possible Overall Composite Ratings are Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective (HEDI). You may request the Overall Composite Rating for the teachers and principals in the school building to which your child is assigned for the current school year by contacting the building principal of your child's school. Further, if you require additional explanation of the ratings for the teachers and principals, you may contact Tony Gill, Assistant Superintendent, at 607-739-5601, x4263. Please note that this information may be released only to parents or legal guardians. The District will verify that any request received is a bona fide request submitted by a parent or legal guardian.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to the HR Directors, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY

Safe Schools Line - To report a concern, rumor, or other safety issue - call 795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984. Line is available 24 hours a day - ALL CALLS ARE ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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Dear Parent (s) / Caregiver (s),
March was a very unique month no doubt about it. However, as the weather is getting warmer and the sunshine is out a little longer, it is wonderful to see all the learning our students are doing inside and outside of their homes. I am thankful for each and every parent who have been partnering with us to help our children continue their learning. I am so proud of our students and everything they are sharing with us, as they learn new skills and life applications outside of the CS Building. I am thankful for our teachers and the work they are putting forth each day to help work with our families. I am thankful to be able to continue our connection with one another.

We are so proud of our students and staff as they raised over \$100.00 for Pennies to Prevent Polio. Our Horsehead Rotary Club matches every dollar we raise for a total of over \$200.00 in this great world outreach. Our students and staff have big hearts and they care about other children across the world. They truly are amazing citizens! Stay well!!!



Sincerely,

Patti Sotero, Principal

Center Street Elementary Contact Information

812 Center Street
Horseheads, NY 14845
607-795-2580
Patricia Sotero, Principal
Jessica Fierro, Secretary
Trishia Alexander, Attendance Clerk
Carrie Reazor, Nurse

www.horseheadsdistrict.com
Heather Labuski, PTO Executive
Denise Trondsen, PTO Executive
Melanie Peden, PTO Executive

www.cspto.org

Newsletter in Color: <http://www.cspto.org/Newsletter>

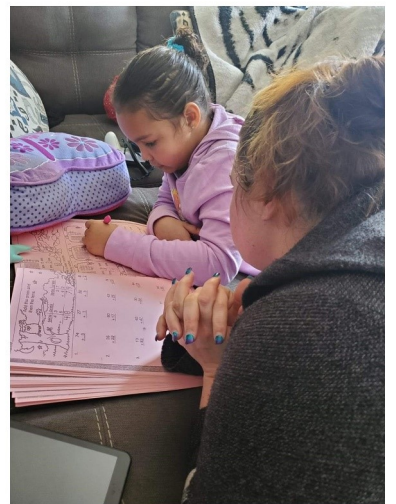
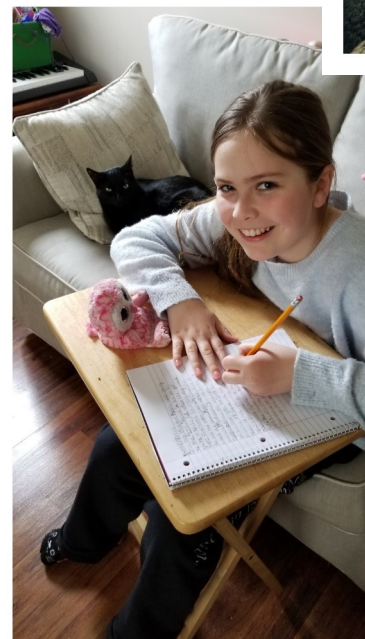
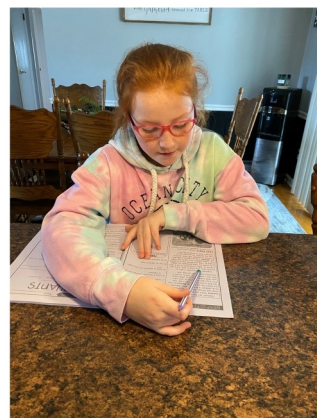
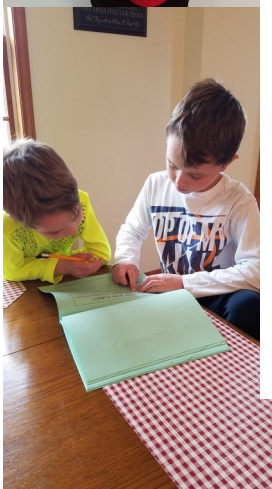
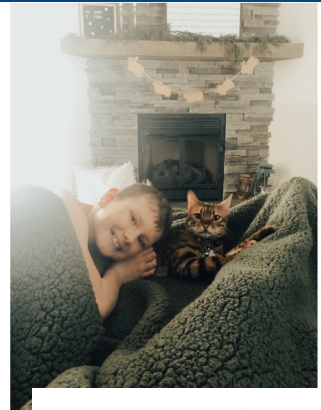
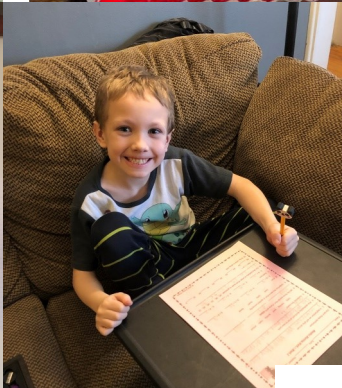
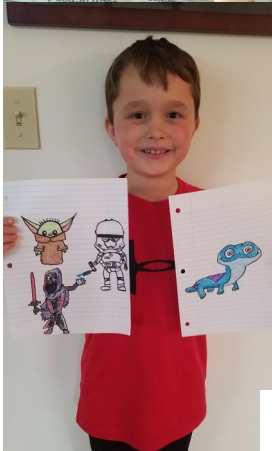
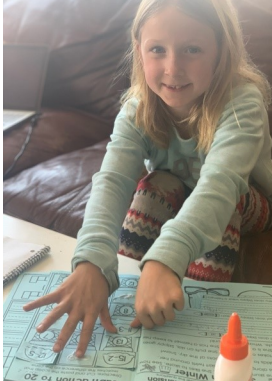
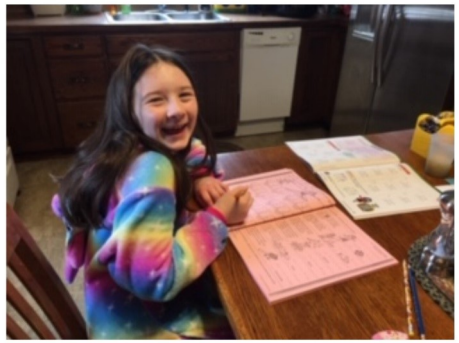
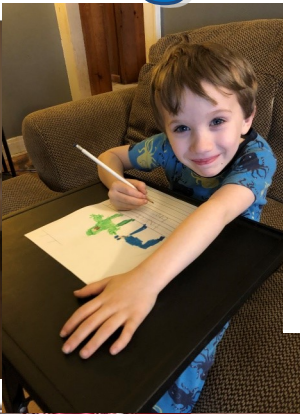


CITIZENSHIP

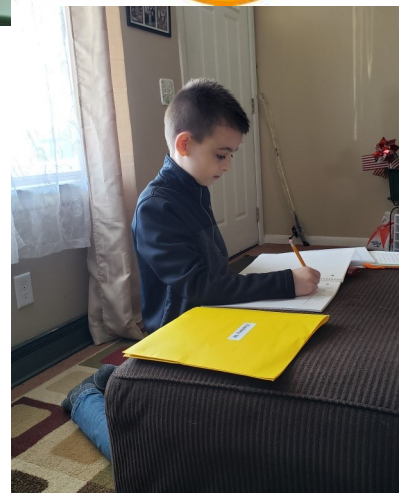
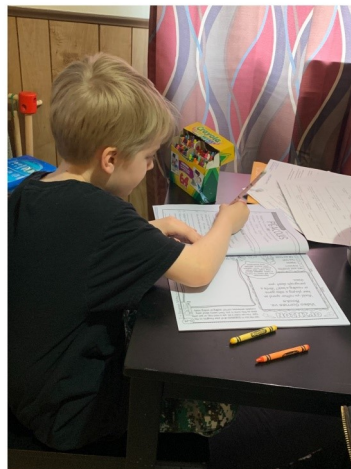
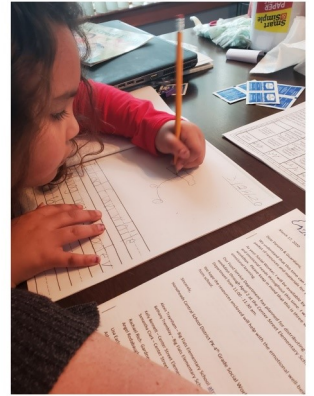
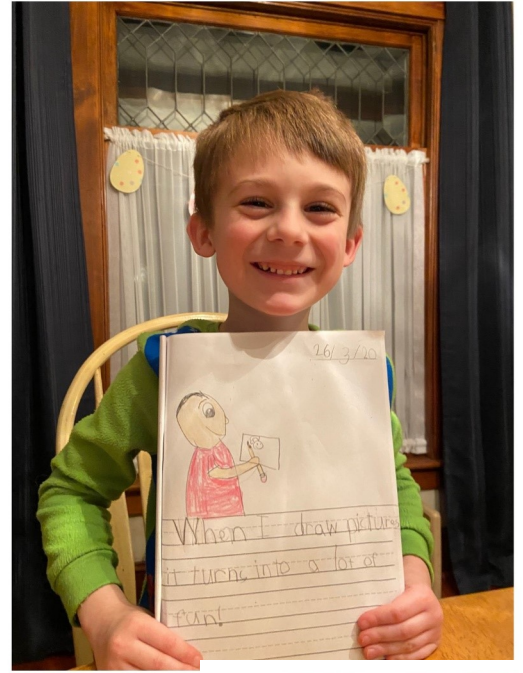
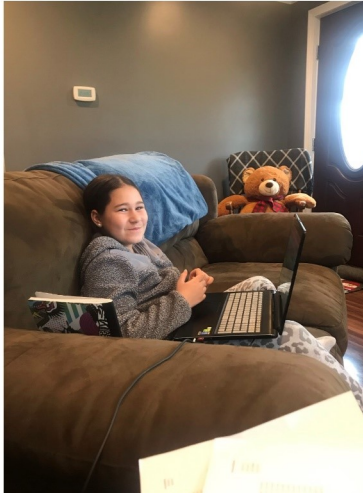
- ◆ We are citizens of our school, community, neighborhood, town, state, country and the world!
- ◆ Making a difference in the lives of others shows great citizenship!

Character Corner

Still Learning...



Still Smiling...



IMPORTANT UPDATES...

Spring New York Assessment Dates (Grades 3 & 4): ALL have been cancelled for this school year.

Parent Input – Class Placements for 2020 - 2021:

In the spring, we will begin to look at classroom placements for the year 2020 - 2021. We use a team approach for class placements and it is a long process. As you might imagine, we must take many things into consideration when making placements. We welcome your input on the learning environment your child learns best with in and you are welcome to share this in a letter to me. Please know that we do value parent input and if you have any information about your child you want us to consider during placement, **please put it in writing and drop it off to the main office by Friday, May 1st or you may email me at psoro@horseheadsdistrict.com**





In efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the state has postponed state-wide school budget votes until at least June 1. You may view preliminary budget information on the district website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2020-21.cfm?school=District>, but please note that information does not yet include current updates on state aid or information received since the closure of schools. Information will be updated once we receive information from the state. Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4295.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR 4TH
GRADE SENIORS HEADING TO THE
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEXT YEAR.**

A presentation and self-guided tour was scheduled on March 23rd for all 4th grades students and families. Due to the extended school dismissal, that event needed to be cancelled. The Intermediate School plans to reschedule for a later date once we resume normal activities. A flyer and email will be sent home with more details when the date is finalized. As a reminder, if you have any input regarding your child's placement at the Intermediate School please mail it to the school ASAP. You may also email your letter directly to Mr. Bostwick mbostwick@horseheadsdistrict.com. The Intermediate School will not take specific requests for teachers.

PTO

We want to thank the PTO for all the labors of love and the many, many hours our parents put in for each and every event. Each activity this year has been absolutely AMAZING! We ARE so thankful for the fun - family events.

Thank you to every parent and family member for your continued support to our PTO and our great school. We could not do it without our wonderful partnership.

If you are intested in running for an officer position for the 2020—2021 school year, please contact Heather Labuski at heatherlabuski@yahoo.com or share your interest on our PTO Messenger section of our website.

We LOVE OUR PTO!!!!





**Be sure to check out our
CS Facebook Page
for new pictures
along with our students doing
the Pledge of
Allegiance each day!**



**WE MISS YOU
CS COLTS!!!**



NEWS FLASH!



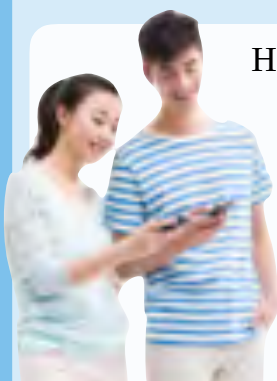
NEW YORK STATE RELEASES NEW EXAMS APRIL 1ST

In a surprising move today, New York State Regents decided to embrace the needs of our digital native students by allowing the use of emojis in essay answers on the Regents exams.

"As we continue our transition to a future of all computer-based testing, it only makes sense to allow students more ways of expressing their ideas", said an assistant to the Chancellor of the Regents. Students are spending many hours a day using these symbols to communicate so it is only natural that they would eventually work their way into scholarly articles and papers.

Educators have expressed concerns about the variety of emojis and avatars that students might use so the Regents have established a recommended list of emojis that students may freely use.

Download the approved list from
<http://go.gstric.org/308-emojis>



Here are some quotes from students:

Jim:



Sue: I agree with him!

Disclaimer: If you hadn't caught on until now, the article above is fake news. Happy April Fools Day! and enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

P.S. It really is National Poetry Month. Enjoy!



APRIL IS ...

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH



Yes! April is National Poetry Month!

We encourage you this month to explore Poetry online.

The web has many sites where you can read and study the work of well-known poets, and lots of other sites where you can publish your own poetry for free.

Whatever way you choose - find something new to you, and download a PDF of the poster above featuring a line of poetry by Joy Harjo.

<http://go.gstric.org/308-poetry-poster>



<http://go.gstric.org/308-power-poetry>



BRADFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

No Crying Over Technology Skills

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

APRIL

Through the use of **Keyboarding Without Tears**, Bradford Central School is working to create technology savvy students who not only possess the skills to be proficient and successful keyboarders, but also students who can safely navigate the internet and all that it brings to their lives.

Keyboarding has always been an important skill, but with many districts now moving towards **computer-based assessments**, it is necessary for our students to master **keyboarding skills**. On top of computer-based assessments, students are increasingly being required to move away from paper and pencil assignments and complete more work on devices. Keyboarding proficiency is a necessary skill to help them be successful in these endeavors.

For these reasons, Bradford Central School has decided to take a proactive stance in their teaching of keyboarding skills as well as Digital Citizenship components to their students. Society currently dubs students as "**digital natives**" due to the fact that they are being brought up in a world where they are surrounded by technology almost from birth. However, it would be good for us to remember that being a digital native doesn't necessarily mean that they have learned the appropriate skills and behaviors to be successful in the digital world into which they were born.

At Bradford, students are being led through the **Keyboarding Without Tears Program** through both direct instruction as well as individual progression. Students have individual accounts where they can work at their own pace at designated times of the day. On other occasions, the Instructional Technology teacher, leads direct instruction on keyboarding skills such as finger placement, home row, capitalization and punctuation. Digital Citizenship components are incorporated into many of the lessons to provide students with an understanding of how to be safe and responsible while online.

Most recently, students in grades 3-6 at Bradford completed activities surrounding their digital impressions and how the things they do online now, will stay with them throughout their lives. Many students were surprised to know that they are creating a **digital footprint** (positive or negative) through their use of various **social media** sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, and YouTube. Students in grades K-2 were led through a lesson entitled "Stop the Strange" where they were presented with various scenarios and asked to discuss and decide which of those situations were strange and when they should consult with an adult.

More information about Keyboarding Without Tears at <http://go.gstric.org/308-KWT>



Bradford second grade students discuss "strange" online scenarios



Bradford fifth grade students work independently on KWT



Bradford sixth grade students discuss their digital impressions

Just Use Your Common Sense!

PART 2

This article continues our quick look at all of the resources at CommonSense Education, one of our favorites Digital Citizenship sites.

Last month, we focused on the excellent curriculum resources at CommonSense (<http://go.gstric.org/307-dc-curriculum>). Now we will turn our attention to the video resources at CommonSense.



The online safety video shown here, about is an example of the high quality information shared in many of the CommonSense video offerings. In this example, a teacher is speaking about an incident where a student from a different district came to their campus looking for a female student who had left her location services turned on on her mobile device. <http://go.gstric.org/308-video>



The Classroom Video page for Digital Citizenship hosts a lot of videos on a lot of DC topics that are anywhere from 54 seconds long to 10 or 11 minutes.

<http://go.gstric.org/308-dc-video>

For parents, CommonSense has a large collection of movie reviews for current films that have been given ratings for age level and content. <http://go.gstric.org/308-movies>

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Calendar Art Contest!

WE HAD **OVER 100** ENTRIES!



See all of our winners in the next issue.
The calendars will be available in June.

Plagiarism is a Real Concern in Higher Education

Submitted by Kelly White, ELA Teacher
Bush Campus Career and Technical Education

Ten Career and Technical Education alumni recently returned to the Bush Education Center at GST BOCES to offer advice to current students. The discussion was moderated by Allen Orshal, audio media instructor. A wide variety of academic and college life issues were discussed during the two-hour panel. One of the hot topics during this informative session concerned high school versus college writing.

Several students noted that plagiarism is an issue on college campuses. One noted that his roommate freshman year “got busted” for plagiarizing an essay. Another described “mass plagiarism” in one of his classes, “and they all failed.”

One panelist described a roommate who was “lazy and spent all of his time playing Counter Strike and sleeping” while another noted that students in one class were “caught copying exact papers.” However, other plagiarism issues were not so blatant. Some alumni reported some students just didn’t know how to quote correctly or didn’t cite correctly. One panelist “was told I plagiarized my entire paper because of one wrong citation.”

The panelists described consequences ranging from failing the class to being expelled from school or fired from a job, and they urged high schools to clearly explain the consequences and to make it clear that plagiarism will likely be caught. In addition to more instruction on citation, they advocated a strict response to plagiarism. One alum urged educators “Don’t treat plagiarism as a minor issue while saying it’s a major one. Actions speak louder than words.”

“I was told I plagiarized my entire paper because of one wrong citation.”

“Don’t Do It!”

Some advice from
College Students

Several students noted plagiarism checkers like Turnitin can help. They explained the software has helped them recognize similarity in their writing.

A final topic included the panel member’s advice about the dangers of plagiarism. Overwhelmingly, the advice was clear: Don’t do it!

One panelist noted “In college, it’s not a joke. You can be kicked out of not only the class but from school.” Another panelist spoke of the consequences in the workplace saying, “Your co-workers will lose respect for you and you will be fired. Don’t do it.”

April 2020 Digital Citizenship Poster

HOME EDITION

Use Your Digital Citizen Tools to Sharpen Your Skills



● Take Care of Yourself

Listen to the advice to stay home. Practice **social distancing**. Call the doctor if you get sick.

Take time to talk to your family. Take time to **enjoy things** you like to do like reading, writing, and listening to music. Re-connect with friends

Find a balance in your life between technology and simple things.



● Maintain Your Privacy

Stay calm. Keep a cool head. There has been an increase in online and phone scamming recently. **Scammers use fear to trick you** into doing things and rushing you into decisions.

If you start using new sites be hesitant to enter your personally identifiable information until you have checked their **privacy policies**. If you are using them for school work make sure they are **compliant** with ED Law 2-D.



● Get Good Information

Use your detective skills to **weed out fake news**. There has been a lot of fake info about the virus. Make sure your sources are reliable.

Support sites with **good** info by giving them likes and **ratings** that help to promote them.

Re-post and re-tweet good info and positive messages. **Report fake sites** and news to the platforms they are exploiting.



● Use Your Tech Wisely

Even though you may be in quarantine you **do not need to be in isolation**.

Use your phone to call friends, neighbors, and family that you can't visit in person.

You can use platforms like zoom, facebook, and messenger to **meet with groups of people online**. Churches and business groups are already using them.



● Use the Web to Help Others

If you are able the web has lots of sites where you can donate to organizations that are doing good in this nation, and in our local communities. If you aren't in that position you can find groups that will accept donations of things other than money, like volunteer, time or materials. If you can't get out there are lots of support groups and organizations that will let you participate in online forums, chats, and blogs. Put positive messages out there in this time.