Dear Families,

It’s hard to believe that we’re completing our third week of school closure and social distancing due to COVID-19. I know that many of you have been directly impacted by the virus, and that many of you are dealing with sickness and loss of loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with each of you during this time. Please know that we are here to support your students in any way that we can.

We’re reaching out today to first thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to create the best learning environment for your children. We appreciate your weekly engagement and the encouragement that you give to your children as they adjust to remote learning. Whether it is through Google Hangouts or the completion of learning packets at home, you make this work possible. You are such a significant part of student learning, and we are grateful for you. Our KIPP Believe College Prep Principal Monica Boudouin said it best: “Our parents have been our greatest partners during this time. Teachers and parents are going above and beyond to ensure that our scholars are staying on track in this ever changing environment.”

Secondly, we want to make sure that you are aware that Louisiana has extended its school closure mandate through April 30th. Given this extension, we are currently planning to return to school on Monday, May 4th. We will continue to support our scholars virtually until then. We will, of course, monitor the guidance set forth by the Governor and will update you should our plan for a May 4th return shift.

In the meantime, please note that NOLA Public Schools released Round 1 OneApp results for the 2020-2021 school year! We are so excited to welcome about 1,000 new scholars to our team and family and add John F. Kennedy High School to KIPP’s network. Serving as the city’s largest network, we are thrilled to have additional open seats for scholars in our community. OneApp Round 2 opens on Monday, April 6, so please refer friends and family in search of a school that will be a good fit for their child. If you know of any families we should reach out to, please let your teacher know. Additionally, we are kicking off our ‘Intent to Return’ process for all current scholars, in which every family will fill out informational packets online via computer, tablet, or phone, for the 2020-2021 school year. Be on the lookout for an email about next steps by Wednesday, April 8.

Finally, as you know, we originally planned a short spring break from Friday, April 10th through Monday, April 13th. Given the extension of school closure and the hard work that our teachers and students are putting in to make remote learning environments a success, we have decided to give students a longer spring break than originally planned. We will now close our virtual learning program from Thursday, April 9th through Tuesday, April 14th. We hope that this break will give our teachers, students, and families the opportunity to rest and rejuvenate. We also recognize that many of you appreciate having activities and learning opportunities for students during this closure; therefore, we will post optional learning opportunities and assignments for students to complete over break. For PK-2 students, these will be posted online at clever.kipp.school. For 3-12 students, these will be posted in the Google Classroom platform. Please note that our community feeding locations will
operate according to their regular schedules during this break. Additionally, while the KNOS Hotline will not operate during this break, our website will provide citywide resources for emergencies.

Thank you for your support and have a great weekend,

Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise
Chief Executive Officer
KIPP New Orleans Schools