March 20, 2020

Dear DV Families,

Today we complete our first week of Distance DV. The feedback we have received from students, parents, and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. I want to express my heartfelt thanks for our community’s collective commitment, enthusiasm, engagement, and patience with this new model of attending DV.

When we launched Distance DV, we promised to assess and make appropriate adjustments to our approach as we learned more. We are requesting feedback on how this first week went from teachers and students and we would also appreciate hearing from our parents and guardians as well. Below is a link to a very brief survey that we are asking you to complete no later than Sunday evening, March 22, so that we can review everyone’s input during spring break.

Distance DV Survey

Based on our daily review of updates from the State of Pennsylvania and local and national health agencies, we now anticipate the need to continue Distance DV beyond spring break. Going forward, we will be taking our cue from the governor’s office as to when it will be safe to return to campus. It is our intention to re-open our facility as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we will be assessing and making any necessary adjustments to Distance DV for the possible necessity of a more sustained implementation.

In addition to our focus on the delivery of student-centered online academic content, we have been working on ways to create opportunities for community-building activities online. One example is this heartwarming video montage of “The Pets of DV” that was put together by our marketing department from photos submitted from across our community. I hope it brightens your day as it did mine.

WATCH THE PETS OF DV VIDEO MONTAGE

Again, I want to thank all of the members of our DV community for your support and encouragement, especially of our teachers and students this past week. I hope everyone has the opportunity to rest and recharge over spring break, to enjoy time with family, and to get out into the sunshine.

In Friendship

Kirk Smothers
Head of School

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