March 9, 2020

Dear DV Community,

I am writing to give you an update on DV's response to the current situation with COVID-19 and some proactive steps we are taking to continue to try to keep our community healthy and prepared in the event that we need to close.

As of today, to our knowledge, no one in the DVFS community has been diagnosed with or has had direct exposure to the COVID-19 virus. We continue to monitor developments in our area and follow the protocols from the Chester County Health Department and the CDC.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the school may need to implement distance education at some point in the future. Because we are fully committed to ensuring both the continuity of our instruction and the safety of our community, we are actively preparing to implement Distance DV. **To that end, the school will be closed to students this Thursday, March 12, 2020 for a Distance Education Summit with our faculty. School will resume with regular hours on Friday, March 13, 2020.**

In addition, we are limiting some activities in the weeks leading up to spring break in order to reduce exposure of our community. We are canceling tomorrow's scheduled field trips to the Holocaust Symposium and a production of *Shakespeare in Love* at People's Light & Theater and rescheduling Friday's Fishing Club outing. Instead, classes will be held as usual. We are also canceling the spring break ABLE mountain biking trip to Moab, Utah.

As of now, our annual spring musical performances this weekend will continue as planned, as they involve primarily members from within our DV community and immediate family members. Spring sports practices will also continue as planned for now.

With cases continuing to increase in other US states and abroad, we ask families who have traveled or plan travel to any Level 1, 2, or 3 destination (visit the CDC's coronavirus travel page for the latest information), or other areas where you come into contact with COVID-19 to notify the school, which would then coordinate with the Chester County Health Department. In addition, we ask that families notify us if a sibling's school is closed related to COVID-19.

We recommend that families keep in touch with their local school districts regarding transportation in case there are interruptions due to school district closings.

At this time, school events scheduled for after spring break are anticipated to proceed as planned, but we will continue to monitor the situation closely and advise you of any changes that become necessary.
We are not excluding visitors to DV at this point, but we are being more mindful with proactively screening visitors for exposure before they arrive. We also continue to meet with our cleaning crew and ensure that we are following updated guidelines from the CDC for keeping the building clean.

We recognize that these changes will present unanticipated challenges. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate this together.

In Friendship

Kirk Smothers
Head of School