March 27, 2020

Dear Families,

Please read this email in its entirety, including all links for your student's division.

I hope that this message finds you healthy and managing the adjustments to social distancing well. In today's Friday letter, I am writing to provide you with links to information regarding adjustments we are making as a school to Distance DV as well as updates pertaining to upcoming conferences in all divisions. Thank you to the many parents and students who provided feedback on how the first week of distance education went for our school.

Working from that feedback and with substantial input from faculty of all three of our divisions, we have modified the schedule to add more facets to a student's day, reduce screen time, preserve the quality of group class time and offer individual support. We have also made the decision to switch our online video/audio/chat interface from Google Hangouts Meet to Zoom. Links to more division-specific information are below.

**Updated Distance DV Guides and Zoom Instructions**

Lower School Distance DV Guide 2.0  
Lower School Zoom Instructions (iPad)

Middle & Upper Schools Distance DV Guide 2.0  
Middle & Upper Schools Zoom Instructions (laptops)

*Students in Upper School should also check their schedules for their third-trimester electives.*

**Conferences**

Lower School conferences will take place as planned on **April 9**. The format of these conferences will be modified as a result of our shift to online learning. More details on those changes will be forthcoming.

Middle and Upper School conferences have been moved to **April 27**. Second-trimester grades and comments will be sent out on a timeline coordinated with this new date. On April 9, there will be no classes, as previously planned. Faculty will use this day in further preparation to deliver online learning.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

**Monday, March 30**  
Distance DV resumes with a focus on transitioning students to Zoom

**Thursday, April 9**  
Lower School Conferences, no classes for Middle and Upper Schools

**Friday, April 10**  
School closed/holiday weekend begins

**Monday, April 27**
Finally, I want to thank each of you and the faculty for your ongoing engagement and flexibility as we continue to learn and adapt to this new learning environment. The initial feedback we have received about the school's response to the coronavirus crisis has been overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging. I am grateful for our incredible community. Many students in our nation are not meeting regularly with their teachers or engaging in classes. We are very fortunate as a school to have partnerships among students, parents, teachers, and administrators that have enabled DV to hit the ground running with a high-quality educational experience at this critically important time.

In Friendship

Kirk Smothers
Head of School

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