May 1, 2020

Dear DV Families,

As we enter May it is clear that the end of the 2019-20 school year is going to be different from any other. In today’s update, I have information on how we will be observing some of our spring traditions in creative ways online, a slight change to the Lower School schedule on May 15th, and an important request that each family respond to a very brief (2-minute) survey linked below that will give the school a clearer sense of the financial impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our families.

We have heard from some members of the DVFriends community that their families are experiencing financial hardship due to loss of employment or income. We are deeply saddened by this difficult though not unexpected information. It is important for the school to gain a better understanding of the extent of this impact now so that it can help inform our plans for the coming school year. I strongly encourage every household to participate and understand that things may change in the months ahead. Know that your responses will be kept strictly confidential. Please submit one response per household by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 5th.

**Parent/Guardian Financial Impact Survey**

By now, families have received the invitation to our Annual Sports Awards Ceremony, which will be broadcast remotely via Zoom on May 28th from 7 - 8 pm and will honor the teams and athletes from our fall and winter seasons. While we are all disappointed that our spring sports could not take the field, court, or course due to the pandemic, we are excited to be able to honor students who participated in soccer, cross country, fall tennis, and basketball. Athletes and families please [complete the Google form](#) to RSVP for this event.

The All School Arts Festival is another hallmark spring event at DVFriends. While we will not be able to showcase the exceptional work our students have done in all disciplines of the arts this school year, we are excited to celebrate the artistic and other talents of our community in the DV Virtual Talent Show on May 15th. The deadline for submissions has been extended until May 8th and I encourage students, faculty/staff
and families to contribute videos of their various talents, including any photographs or video of fine arts pieces that they have completed while we have been apart. Please send submissions to lisa.howell@dvfs.org.

Finally, to our Lower School families, there has been a slight change to the calendar this month. Lower School classes will not meet on Friday, May 15th in order to provide lower school teachers with a day for professional development and prep time for the final weeks of the school year. With adjustments to the conference schedules, middle and upper school faculty had this opportunity on April 9th during lower school conferences, but Lower School was in session during the April 27th upper and middle school conferences. Middle and Upper School will have regular classes on May 15th.

I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful weather we are expecting this weekend!

In Friendship,

Kirk Smothers
Head of School