April 9, 2020

Dear DV Families,

Today we learned that the governor's office and state department of education have extended the closure of all school campuses in Pennsylvania for the rest of the current school year. This news may be surprising to some, and not at all surprising to others. Delaware Valley Friends School faculty, staff, and administrators are prepared and we will continue to deliver Distance DV through the remainder of the academic year. We are meeting to develop alternative plans for upcoming traditions and events, and we will be communicating with students and families as those plans become clear. We will continue to maintain and strengthen our community in creative and engaging ways and to support our students, faculty, and families through the weeks ahead.

While we face unprecedented challenges that can be stressful for everyone in our extended DV community, I have never been more proud of our students, faculty, and administrators for their resilience, determination, creativity, flexibility, and genuine care of each other. When all of this is finally behind us, it is these things that we will remember -- not the Zoom lessons or the online projects, but how we were there for each other, meaningfully, and personally.

Moving forward, I want to draw your attention to a few upcoming events and opportunities for parent feedback:

• DV’s consulting psychologist Michael Cassano and I will hold a virtual conversation with parents and guardians in all grades on Tuesday, April 14th at 5:30 pm to offer tools and strategies for supporting children and teens during this time of distance learning and social distancing. The members of the Student Support team will also join the call and will offer their advice and reflections as well. If you would like to participate in that virtual event, RSVP to Judy Sheridan at judy.sheridan@dvfs.org.
• Middle and Upper School advisor/parent/student conferences are scheduled for April 27th. Please make sure your conference time is scheduled with your student’s advisor. Lower School had their conferences today and will have a regular school day on the 27th.
• I am proud to share the news with you that Dylan and Kathleen Davis, parents of Lauren in the Middle School, are Parent Advisory Council Leaders for the National Center for Learning Disabilities. If you are not familiar with the NCLD, I recommend that you look into this organization, which is a wonderful resource for parents and educators. The NCLD is currently seeking your stories on how you and DV are supporting your student with a learning difference. The survey is only three questions long and can be found here: NCLD - Share Your Story.
• Next Friday will mark the third week of Distance DV 2.0. We will be coming back to parents, students, and faculty for their feedback. While we do not anticipate additional major changes to the program this school year, your input is important and we will make needed adjustments based on all of the feedback we receive.
Have a safe and happy holiday weekend.

In Friendship

Kirk Smothers
Head of School