Dear Team and Family,

It’s hard to believe that we’re completing our third week of school closure and social distancing due to COVID-19. I know that many of you have been directly impacted by the virus, and that many of you are dealing with sickness and loss of loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with each of you during this time. I hope you are finding support and comfort in the connections we all share as a community.

We’re reaching out today to first thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to our students. As I shared earlier this week, there is no playbook for operating right now, either professionally or personally. Your flexibility and adaptation to this remote learning environment are appreciated, especially in a world where we’re all adapting our personal and family lives and responsibilities to this new reality at the very same time. A parent who reached out this week said it best: “I just want to take the time out to appreciate every teacher…thanks to everyone for the great opportunities y’all are giving our kids.”

Secondly, we want to make sure that you are aware that Louisiana has extended its school closure mandate through April 30th. Given this extension, we are currently planning to return to school on Monday, May 4th. We will continue to support our scholars virtually until then. We will, of course, monitor the guidance set forth by the Governor and will provide updates as we get them should our plan for a May 4th return shift. Many of you have asked what this means for end-of-year activities like graduations and close-out; many have wondered whether we will conduct summer school or have an earlier start to the next school year. Please know that we continue to work with our CMO peers, our partners at NOLA Public Schools, and the LDOE to answer such questions. Our commitment remains to provide students with as much normalcy as possible and to celebrate important milestones like graduation as soon as we can. We will continue to communicate regularly and share updates as we receive them.

Finally, as you know, we originally planned a short spring break from Friday, April 10th through Monday, April 13th. Given the extension of school closure and the incredible work you have put in to be there for your students and to make remote learning environments a success, we have decided that we will take a longer spring break than originally planned. We will now close from Thursday, April 9th through Tuesday, April 13th. We hope that this break will give you the opportunity to step completely away from work, to rest, rejuvenate, and spend quality time with loved ones. We recognize that many families will appreciate having activities and learning opportunities for students during the extended break and will therefore provide families
with optional work for students over the break. Please also note that our community feeding locations will operate according to their regular schedules during this break. Additionally, while the KNOS Hotline will be closed during this break, our website will continue to post the very latest resources that families and teachers can access during this crisis.

I continue to be proud and grateful to work with each of you and hope that you have a restful weekend.

Stay well,
Rhonda