Dear Families,

As always, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well.

With your help, we celebrated our teachers this week in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. I know that teachers were especially touched to hear from so many of you. Thank you for expressing your gratitude and appreciation. This has been a challenging few weeks for everyone, and I couldn’t be more proud of our teachers who went above and beyond to make sure that learning continued for our students during this closure.

As we head into our final week of instruction, we have a few reminders for you.

1. If you have not done so already, please complete your Intent to Return packets. Thanks to all of you who have done so already—we are excited about your commitment and are ready to begin planning for the upcoming school year.

2. As we reflect on the past two months and begin planning for our return to school, we look forward to hearing about your remote learning experiences. [Here is parent survey asking for your feedback.](#) As part of our planning for next year, we want to make sure we are ready for all potential scenarios, including the potential for an additional school closure. Your feedback on our distance learning plan from the past 2 months, as well as thoughts about how we should approach next year, will be incredibly important to our planning for the 2020-21 school year.

As we look at the week ahead, we are aware that this week would have traditionally brought many incredible milestones and celebrations as students completed their school year. I know that students are feeling the sadness of not celebrating promotion ceremonies and graduations, of not ending the school year with their friends, of not sharing their college decisions with their teachers. It is also not lost on us that this year would have marked two very special firsts in KNOS. This year marks the first graduation class from Booker T. Washington since the school reopened. Additionally, Frederick Douglass High School is the only degree granting early college in Louisiana, and next week marks the first time some our Douglass students will earn both a high school diploma and an Associate’s Degree from Bard College. Our community was so excited to share these moments together, and we are all incredibly sad that we are unable to do so. That said, we want you all to know how hard our principals and teachers are working to create special ways to celebrate these milestones in the coming weeks. Students and families have worked so hard to get to this moment, and the future, especially for all of our graduates, is bright. This is worth celebrating, and we are committed to doing so over the next few weeks.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. And Happy Mother’s Day to all of our incredible mothers and grandmothers.

All the best,
Rhonda