



March 19, 2020

Dear GSL Families,

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. With the health and safety of our students and community at the core of the decision, Grace-St. Luke's will continue the suspension of all on-campus operations through April 5. We hope to reopen campus on Monday, April 6, but will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and update you accordingly. While we cannot be certain of the progression of this virus, as a school we want to be proactive rather than reactive and communicate with our families as early as possible.

During this time, GSL will continue to:

- provide remote lessons and activities. We are actively embracing and delivering remote learning for our students.
- communicate regularly with our community.
- review all events and activities on the school calendar and communicate all changes.

Remote Learning

Yesterday, most students were able to connect with their teachers/advisors. We've heard such wonderful feedback after this first day of connection and are looking forward to the ongoing success of remote learning.

Our faculty continues to work hard to deliver individualized instruction to students. We ask that families help students understand that each day of remote learning is considered an instructional day. **Our paradigm has shifted, but our goals and standards have not.**

Getting Materials on Campus

Some have asked to come on campus to get certain books or other learning materials. We will not be opening our campus to anyone for at least two weeks. We are, however, working on a schedule to allow items to be picked up at the end of this month. In the meantime, we encourage you to use a buddy system by remotely connecting with classmates to get pictures of any materials (such as a picture of a page in a textbook) needed.

Physical Distancing

During this time of remote learning, we would like our community to think about this time as "physical distancing" rather than "*social distancing*." The social-emotional growth and wellbeing of our students has always been a primary focus at GSL, and that has not changed. What we need right now is the appropriate physical distance between people to help control the spread of COVID-19. What we need just as much is social connection with each other, family members, and faculty. The positive stories that are on the news are all about people finding ways to be socially connected while honoring the physical realities of maintaining appropriate distances.

Update on Events

Various events and activities have been either canceled or suspended as indicated below. We will communicate additional updates in the weeks to come.

Suspended Indefinitely

- All sports
- Spring musical
- ACE: Enrichment classes

Canceled

- All Lower School musicals
- 3/29 School/Church Wholehearted Parenting Retreat
- 4/1 Fourth Grade Citizenship Breakfast
- 4/2 Preschool Gardening Day
- 4/3 Air & Space Day
- 4/3 Anchor Auction (art projects to be auctioned off at a time TBD)

As we deal with this massive shift in our world, remember that children are watching and listening. They are looking to us, the beloved adults in their lives, to make a scary, changing world seem manageable. Attached is a resource for [Talking with Children about COVID-19](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists. How we react makes all the difference in how our children handle adversity.

We may not know the full trajectory of COVID-19, but we promise to keep you informed of how the school will continue to manage our continuity of instruction.

In good health,

Thor Kvande
Head of School
