



IMPORTANT INFO FROM SRES

Dear Parents,

Some of you may be receiving this message for the second time (it was previously sent this morning) as we are experiencing difficulties with our e-mail group lists. We apologize for the inconvenience. **Please e-mail support@sresdragons.org if you did NOT receive a message from dragonnews@sresdragons.org earlier this morning.**

As you know, we have been closely monitoring and responding to the rapidly changing Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (declared a global pandemic yesterday by the World Health Organization) worldwide and specifically in Indianapolis. We've been on a steep learning curve digesting a great deal of written material and having meaningful conversations with various government agencies, national associations, medical and public health experts, our peer schools, board members, and the leadership of Trinity Episcopal Church. Our commitment remains focused on the well-being of our students and their families, our faculty and staff, and the greater community, especially those who fall into high risk categories.

St. Richard's, in conjunction with several independent schools has decided to act now and adhere to the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enforce social distancing. Last evening, we came to the difficult decision of closing school effective Friday, March 13. Our goal is to re-open school following spring break on Monday, April 13. We want to reiterate that we do not have any confirmed cases of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) in our community at this time, and we are still waiting on results from the family we referenced earlier this week. As promised, we will communicate these results as soon as we receive them.

We had been previously advised to fine-tune and in some cases establish remote learning opportunities for students and increase our training for faculty. We have done so in earnest and with remarkable progress. As we transition instruction from classroom to remote learning, our faculty will spend today in class preparing our students for this transition. Our division heads, Mrs. Cherie Bowen and Mr. John Brady, along with technology director Mr. Patrick Love, will be in touch with a prepared overview of our approach and technology policies.

We realize we are entering new territory for faculty, students and parents. We ask for your commitment and partnership in striving to provide the best learning opportunity possible, knowing that it will be less than a typical day at St. Richard's in some aspects but full of potential for students to develop new intellectual skills, focus and flexibility. As I've discussed with the heads of our peer schools, we'll all become better at this the more we do of it.

Next Steps:

A) We will follow our regular schedule today (Thursday) and will hold aftercare until 6:00 p.m. The library will be open until 5:00 p.m. You are welcome to check out books for your families.

B) Friday, March 13, the school will be open from 8:00-10:00 a.m. for families needing brief access to the building for the following reasons:

1. Check out books from the library.
2. Check out a laptop and charger from Mr. Love.
3. Retrieve important items left in lockers, etc.

C) Remote learning will be introduced on Friday, March 13. You will receive communication from your child's homeroom teacher prior to 8:30 a.m.

D) You will receive regular communication and updates from us regarding our proposed start date of Monday, April 13 and our insistence on families following the CDC's guidelines on traveling and remaining self-quarantined as needed. Our updates will also be posted on the Healthy Dragons page on our website.

E) We will not offer holiday care during this time. Please email Mrs. Pittman if you are in need of contacts for childcare for your individual home. They will be in high demand, but we are willing to help connect you with some of our contacts.

F) If your child does not attend school today, we will send additional information to your families and respect this decision.

While we are confident that we are making this decision in the best interest of our school community, the greater Indianapolis community, and particularly those individuals who face significant risk from COVID-19, we acknowledge our news will present challenges, particularly for parents. Our faculty, staff and administrators at St. Richard's are eager to partner in new ways with your family during this period of significant disruption in our lives. Additional resources that you can use to navigate discussions with your children at home will be posted on our [Healthy Dragons page](#) on the website later today. We will also provide an overview of what the teachers discussed in the classroom today related to the Coronavirus and our closing.

We talk often of the goodness, gumption and grit that has made St. Richard's special over the years. Let's model the 3 G's for our children/students and approach the current uncertainties we face with steadfastness and grace, recognizing the brave individuals on the frontlines of this pandemic and keeping those directly affected by COVID-19 throughout the world in our thoughts and prayers.

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www.sresdragons.org

