



Dear Early Childhood and Lower Division Families,

Welcome back to school from spring break! I hope this letter finds you and your family well. This period of time is unlike most of us have ever known, and whether you have been on the front lines of battling the virus in the health field or with family members, trying to manage work and home life in a different way, or simply adjusting to an altered sense of daily life, it has been a challenge for all of us. Continuing our traditions, routines, progress and connections through these times is even more important than before. We can depend on education, albeit in a different format, to steady the ship and steer us through the uncertain storm - through daily routines, personal connections, familiar experiences and goals. I recently heard something in a national webinar that resonated with me - "We are skilling up!" While the platforms have shifted during this period, we have the opportunity, as students, teachers and as an institution, to think even more creatively and collaboratively while anchoring to our culture, traditions and mission.

Over the break, our teachers and administrators continued the research, both nationally, regionally and locally, training, and implementing efforts to strengthen our remote learning platform. Here are some of the things we have learned:

1. A balance of synchronous and asynchronous learning is important for connection, productivity and sustainability for both home, student and teacher coupled with a variety of activities to engage the students intellectually and socially. Younger students need a shorter check-in with teachers and some small group work. LD students have the stamina and capability to attend longer synchronous sessions but still need a variety of activities so they are not in front of a screen most of the school day.
 - a. To that end, moving forward you will see more synchronous learning sessions and small group times in all grade levels yet they will be thoughtfully balanced with asynchronous instruction and appropriate assignments.
 - b. Kindergarten is moving to the Google Classroom platform, joining Lower Division where all content, including specials, will be housed. This move was done in response to suggestions by both teachers, administration and parents familiar with the framework from their older students.

- c. Dean Manuel and Mrs. Mariani will be providing support in an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) format weekly. “Wellness Wednesday” begins this week during which Dean Manuel and Mrs. Mariani will lead activities and reflection for all students. You will receive these Wellness messages via Division Directors and via our Social Media.
 - d. Mrs. Hummer will begin to provide weekly reading tutorials to guide both parents and students at the EC and LD level and continued student support.
 - e. We are in the process of discussing assessment and reports and how best to reflect learning and student progress with fidelity in this platform.
2. It is important for us to creatively present our traditional events and end of year functions so we are actively working on those. In addition,
- a. Beginning next week, members of administration, faculty or staff will “greet” students at the virtual door to start the school week. These messages will be distributed through your homeroom teacher’s delivery of material.
 - b. Unit projects are being adapted to our remote learning platform such as the G4 shark project and JK’s tadpole study.
 - c. Chapel with Father Ben and Assemblies will continue as customary.
 - d. Monthly EC/LD birthdays will be announced on a Wednesday Chapel as is customary - please watch this coming Wednesday’s Chapel for the first one!
3. Technology access and tools for our whole community is continually being advanced. Such as:
- a. LD is developing how-to-guides on submitting work to Google classroom and for teachers to send pdfs through scanning apps for better presentation of the material.
 - b. Mr. Love is preparing periodic tutorials for both parents and students alike on technological features.

I want to thank you for your continued support and feedback as we all have continued to adapt and evolve through this experience. Our goal is to continue to provide the best professional educational guidance, teaching and optimal resources to you and your children to keep our sail on course through changing winds.

Best wishes,

Cherie Bowen
Head of Early Childhood and Lower Divisions