

EMAIL FROM KEN CHEESEMAN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Information

DATE: Mar 12, 2020, 8:40 PM

Dear FWC Families,

Greetings! You last heard from us five days ago about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the guidelines issued by the CDC at that time. As you know, much has transpired over the last five days: the NBA, NHL, and MLB have suspended their seasons, the NCAA has canceled all remaining winter and spring championships, including the nearly billion-dollar revenue-producing March Madness, many colleges and universities across the United States have moved to online-only classes until April and/or the end of the semester.

Our school's leadership team (Kent Means, Nick Hinrichsen, Jill Shelby, Elizabeth Green, Randy Vaughn, Debbie Loy, Mary Lou Crist, Jared Hudgins, Lauren Smeds, and I), assisted by our medical team (Corry Karlen, DeeAnn Brownlow, and Cyndi Worsham), will serve as our COVID-19 task force to discern how best for FWC to respond to this rapidly changing pandemic.

Our team has been and continues to be in contact with local health officials, representatives of the CDC, a group of 8 other private schools in our area, several state and national educational associations, and TAPPS to glean the wisdom and insights on the best plan of action.

At this time, we will extend Spring Break for all students until Monday, March 23rd.

Our faculty will report to school at 9 AM on Monday, March 16 for the purpose of developing a distance-learning program that may be needed to guide our faculty, students, and parents well into April.

Our team will convene a virtual meeting tomorrow afternoon, Friday, March 13th, to determine more details, inclusive of extending time away from campus for more than one week. As you likely know, many K-12 schools have already made the decision to go to hybrid online schooling until April to mitigate risks of accelerating the spread of the virus after many families have traveled throughout the world, on cruise ships, and to locations with many people who may have had the virus.

We appreciate your prayers as we finalize our post-Spring Break plans. I can speak confidently for our entire leadership team and COVID-19 task forces and say we have never faced a more perplexing situation in our careers. Please know we are thoughtfully and prayerfully considering the best course of action with inputs from a broad array of professionals; that said, no matter what decision we make, we know that it will NOT be the decision that everyone of you would make, so we ask for your patience and grace as we work through a historically unprecedented crisis.

We will update you late tomorrow after our COVID-19 task force meeting.

Godspeed to each of you.

Sincerely,

Ken Cheeseman

Head of School