

## **March 19, 2020 Letter Regarding the COVID-19 Virus: Sixth Correspondence**

Dear Lynnhaven Families,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits. It was very nice to see some of you yesterday as you picked up art supplies for your student.

Yesterday was the launch of our remote learning environment. I am very pleased with how it rolled out. We have posted a few of the 15 second COVID-19 videos on our social media channels and I encourage you to check them out. It makes me smile to see the creativity and humor of our students.

The Lynnhaven Emergency Response Team (ERT) has been closely monitoring guidance from the CDC, the VDH, and the Governor. All reports indicate the virus has not crescendoed in terms of the outbreak here in the United States and the Commonwealth. We believe it's important for you not to worry or wonder during these times as it relates to extending school closure week after week. It's unsettling enough to hear news about COVID-19 and the increasing fatalities in our country.

I think it is important we plan accordingly so that we as a school community can get into a rhythm, rather than this "stop and go" school closure possibility. Therefore, I have made the executive decision that we will continue with remote learning for the remainder of the school year unless the Governor, CDC, VDH, and VCPE indicate that it is safe to return to school. I understand this may seem extreme, but just recently the Governor of Kansas ended the school year there for the entire state and it is not out of the realm of possibility for Virginia. Our school community spans four counties and the City of Richmond. We may be small, but our community is large. Our teachers have prepared from the beginning for this and will proceed with our remote learning bringing your students a Lynnhaven education at home. Should we get the all clear to head back to school, we will re-open our in-person learning within 48 hours.

I know this raises some questions and I want to be sure to address as many as I can. We will continue with our regularly scheduled spring break from April 6 - April 13th. We also will continue with our regularly scheduled exam weeks in May, although we are still determining what that will look like. Additionally, our last day will still be May 28th. At this time; however, we've made the difficult decision to postpone the Senior Dinner and adjust the live Commencement Exercise. We want to recognize our graduates, but it is uncertain at this time what that will look like. Additionally, for those Upper School students needing community service hours, your remaining hours will be waived for this school year.

It is important to promote a sense of normalcy as much as we can during these uncertain and undesirable times. The reality is, nothing is quite normal right now. I do know what is constant; our love for your student and the strong desire to continue to educate them during these undesirable circumstances. We are

in this together. As I type this, I am reminded of Mother Theresa's unforgettable words: "I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things."

Take care of each other. Wash your hands. Practice social distancing and stay aware of symptoms of COVID-19. Let's do our part to flatten the curve.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Johnathan L Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'J'.

Johnathan Harris, Headmaster