



Charleston Day School

April 5, 2020

Dear Charleston Day School Families,

I hope that each of you are well. Please know how much we miss seeing you and your children in person on a daily basis. As we enter the second full week of Remote Learning, I wanted to take a moment to update you on a couple of things:

- We continue to refine our Remote Learning plans. For example, Zoom meetings were added in the lower grades and Advisory was added in the upper grades. Our goal is to deliver meaningful instruction while maintaining and promoting strong and resilient connections between your student(s) and their teachers and peers. As we move forward, we will continually assess how the remote curriculum is delivered and make adjustments and improvements accordingly.
- We are assessing all of the on-campus events that were scheduled for the coming weeks and seeking ways to recreate them remotely, if possible. With Field Day scheduled for April 17, Coach Wallace and a team of faculty members and administrators are working to create a remote Field Day that is designed to engage each student, and allow the Red and Blue teams to receive points for a wide range of activities. In addition, lower elementary students will be able to participate in a redesigned egg hunt at the end of this week.
- As we move towards the end of year events, including graduation, we will begin to make contingency plans in the event that we do not return to campus after April 30. We will continue to keep you updated as plans and contingency plans are considered and put in place.
- To help keep you connected to your CDS Community, we will continue to publish our electronic newsletter (*The Communicator – CDS Connects*) and have updated the content of that publication to include current videos and photos, and important campus and event information. We hope you will enjoy a glimpse of what is happening remotely on our extended campus. In order to provide you with this information at the beginning of the week, we have moved the delivery date of *The Communicator- CDS Connects* from Thursday to Monday. Please look for tomorrow's version in your inbox. Tomorrow's newsletter will contain a video that I recorded for the students. Typically, we would all be in Assembly on Monday morning, and in the first Assembly of each month, we discuss the word of the month. These words are chosen at the beginning of the year, and quite appropriately for our current situation, the word of the month for April is perseverance. I hope you'll take a moment to watch the video.

Finally, I wanted to acknowledge again that the situation that we are all facing right now is unprecedented. The uncertainty of what might come next is stressful and can be unsettling. As we move forward together, I wanted to share an excerpt from a parent letter that a colleague at another school received and shared with me. I found the letter to be thoughtful and insightful. The parent acknowledged that moving rapidly to remote learning would be challenging for all involved. She went on to indicate that despite the changes, the teachers were modeling important lessons that transcended the stated curriculum. She wrote:

- *You've taught them that people are flexible - they adapt to new things.*
- *You've taught them that people will show up for them even when it's hard.*
- *You've taught them that communities work together for the greater good.*
- *You've taught them the world is a good place. That even when circumstances are scary, people are good.*
- *You've loved them enough to be there - and that's all any of us can do, is love each other through this.*

All of those lessons are happening every day at Charleston Day School. Whether we are on campus or remote, the foundation of our school remains the same - we support one another. The mission of the school – to foster scholarship, integrity, respect and responsibility in our students guides us in all we do.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Be well, stay connected, and take care of one another.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".