

March 9, 2020

Dear Grace Community:

This is the second in a series of communications about COVID-19 and our planning and response here at Grace. With the rapid nature of the developing situation and with confirmed cases in Montgomery County and the District, we are meeting daily to consider all of the ways we can keep our students, faculty, and parents safe and informed.

This letter will outline new information and resources from our end, and reiterate the best-practices guidelines we have already shared.

Travel plans:

- With Spring Break a few weeks away, we are aware that families may have travel plans. We ask that you approach any travel with a community-based and thoughtful mindset informed by guidance from the CDC and State Department. We ask that you follow [the recommendations on cancelling travel](#) to locations in Level 3 or 4 locations.
- If you must travel to a high-risk location, we ask that you be aware that self-quarantining may be required upon your return.

School events:

- As of today, the Science Fair will continue as planned for tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 10**.
- In an abundance of caution we have decided to cancel our **Winter Ice Skating Social** that was scheduled for **Saturday, March 15**.
- Grade 4 will not travel to Londontown next week on **Friday, March 20**.

Information and geds.org:

- We have created a [webpage](#) where we will gather our communications and provide ongoing updates. If necessary, we will also use this page as a portal for our online learning plans.

Previously-shared prevention guidance:

The most important update to offer remains the same as what we outlined in our first letter last week. These are the precautions we can take to inhibit the spread of the virus.

The [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) reports that the best approach to avoiding communicable diseases such as COVID-19 is **prevention**.

To that end:

- We continue to remind our students to wash their hands thoroughly, to cough or sneeze into their elbows or shoulders, and to avoid touching their faces;
- In addition, all classrooms are cleaned daily and all are well-equipped with hand sanitizer and tissues;
- All faculty and staff members have access to disinfectant cleaners.
- Over Spring Break, Grace will have a deep cleaning performed in advance of our return to school.
- Please keep your child at home if they are ill. If you or your child is experiencing fever, coughing, and shortness of breath please [review this page from the CDC](#) and call your health-care provider for guidance.

A Message from your Head of School:

Finally, we know this is a stressful time in our world. This weekend, with some more room to reflect and think, I reminded myself that I needed to check-in with my own feelings of overwhelm and find some center and calm. As your leader, I want to be as helpful and reassuring as I can be as we weather this challenging moment. I offer the same invitation to all of you.

Perhaps with the daylight savings, we can all commit to some after-dinner walks, more time playing outside in our yards or parks, and a doubling down on any activities that bring us peace. I offer another [article](#) with tips on talking to your children about the virus. Additionally, this [blog](#) from Andrew Kutt, head of our partner school, Oneness Family School, reminds us of our place in a global family at a time like this. Anything we can do to offer children a non-anxious presence will help them to manage this time with more ease.

Please check your email regularly and read your Gryphon News. We will use these methods -- as well as text messaging on occasion or if we need to reach you more urgently -- to keep you informed. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Off to wash my hands!

Yours in good health,

Jen Danish