



Dear Learning Prep Families,

We hope this email finds you and your family healthy and safe!

As we are all learning with each passing day, the impact of COVID-19 here in the States and around the world is both serious and pervasive. The norms that have long defined our way of life are being compromised as certain restrictions on our daily life style are set in place through legislation and executive order, all designed to mitigate the virus from spreading. These are uncharted waters and they will not be easy to navigate.

As you know, Governor Baker has ordered a three-week suspension of school operations for all educational purposes in K-12 schools. Attendant to this order, the earliest date that schools could reopen for normal operations is Tuesday, April 7, 2020. As you know, this did not include 766 schools (Special Education Schools), although nearly all of them closed, including Learning Prep School, as a preventative measure due to the inherent risk of exposure to the children. The increasing intensity and spread of the virus, together with the social distancing requirements provide further justification for this decision.

While schools are not required to provide services to students, including those with disabilities, LPS made the decision that we would provide a remote learning plan designed to minimize student regression during such time that the school may be closed. The plan is designed to continue teaching and learning and to maintain timely communication with staff, students, and parents. Much of this work in the high school will be advanced using Google classroom. EMS is advancing this plan through student email.

Obviously, no plan can replicate with fidelity the teaching and learning dynamic that defines the educational program when LPS is in session. The teacher/student relationship that distinguishes our educational program is defined by the intense and extensive interaction in the actual physical learning environment at LPS. The approach we have implemented represents the collective expertise and experience of a staff of educators dedicated to serving the needs of students with learning disabilities.

There are some private, independent college preparatory schools and universities using some version of video as part of their remote learning plan. This may be an effective delivery model given the mission of those schools and the definition of their students. While there are exceptions to any rule, we do not believe that this is an effective option for our students given the statements in the preceding paragraph.

Finally, our plan is also reflective of the fact that these circumstances and the access to resources of our families varies considerably. Our plan acknowledges and respects these realities and is focused, to the extent possible, on providing an equality of opportunity to engage in the program for all of our families. We will continue our efforts to support our students within the parameters as delineated in this and all of our prior communications to date.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact your child's respective building Principal.

Please take every precaution to keep your loved ones safe and healthy. We all look forward to the day when we can return to some sense of normalcy in our daily lives. All of us at LPS will be ready to embrace the students with open hearts on their return.

Respectfully,

Ted & Gretchen  
Head of School & Chief Operating Officer