



Dear Learning Prep Families,

As we all know, we are in the midst of challenging times and many of the norms that we have been accustomed to for many years to varying degrees, are being tested. Indeed, some are no longer in place, at least temporarily. Humankind has demonstrated throughout history that change is often difficult. Many among us take solace in knowing that the daily rhythm that governs our personal and professional lifestyle is one of constancy. That constancy, even with reasonable adjustments that we may have to adapt to from time to time, do not substantively alter our daily life. Our nation has experienced serious events that tend to disrupt our routines, our comfort zones. Our grandparents and great grandparents experienced the flu epidemic of 1918 and more recently, we have had to adjust to the attacks on our nation on 9/11 and the rise of terrorist threats around the world.

Presently, the world is experiencing another threat to the norms that govern our lifestyle, COVID-19. It is not only the threat to our health that the virus presents, although that is the most important concern, it is also the life altering challenges emanating from it including the impact on our economy, on family life, and an on our capacity to address other important factors that define our lives and those of the greater society.

Most of us like to believe that we are in charge of our life and it is disconcerting when that faith to provide for our family may have less certainty than that which we have been accustomed. This is to be expected! When our ability to replicate what defines normalcy in our life is compromised, it exacerbates our frustration, our stress, and our fear of the unknown, of things that may be beyond our ability to control.

What we do have some control over is to understand and accept that with every challenge comes an opportunity. We have an opportunity to unleash our creative genius, working together to establish new norms that may enable us to maintain a good quality of life for ourselves, our families, and our professional entities, as well.

Educational organizations are engaged in this enterprise, as are families and business enterprises. We are all focused on how best, given the ever changing landscape, we can support our students, their families, and our staff and their families. As was stated in an earlier communication to our LPS community, we do not have all the answers; indeed, we don't even know all of the right questions. No one among us does, in fact those who profess that they do are not only deceiving themselves, and they deceive the rest of us.

LPS is engaged in a concerted effort to support the cognitive and the affective needs of our students, and we will continue to do so, for as long as we must. What we do know is that we cannot replicate with fidelity the norm that exists when our school is alive and vibrant with teaching and learning here on the campus. Our intention, as we have stated in prior communications, is to provide them with opportunities designed to stimulate their mind, support their social emotional needs, let them and you know that we care deeply about them, and to minimize regression, to the extent possible in a remote learning environment. It is critically important that you isolate some time in your day to sit with your child, review

the work they have been assigned, and reinforce with them the importance of continuing to invest in themselves as learners. We are continuously exploring with our staff, opportunities to enhance the educational experience for our students.

Earlier today, you should have received a brief survey from your child's Principal and your responses will help us to design this interactive program. During the week of March 30<sup>th</sup> the Principal will also be providing you with information on the plan to be implemented. It will provide an interactive component between your child, their teachers and specialist(s) at LPS, enabling them to converse and see one another.

Governor Baker has now extended school closing through May 4, 2020. Let us accept this as a challenge to all of us that it will present new opportunities to support the most important among us, the children! We fervently believe in the resiliency of the human spirit.

We encourage you to contact your child's Principal should you need clarification with respect to our educational plan. Thanks in advance for your understanding and support.

Respectfully,  
Ted Sharp, Head of School  
Gretchen Petersen, Chief Operating Officer