

# THE HARVEY SCHOOL

March 9, 2020

Dear Harvey Families,

I am writing to let you know that given the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19, and after consulting with our school physician and with our peer schools in the area, we will be canceling classes and after-school activities for the remainder of the week leading into spring break. Students were informed of this decision at today's morning meeting.

We do not have any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Harvey and are taking this step only out of an abundance of caution since a number of local public and independent schools have closed already. Additionally, since we have a boarding population, we need to be proactive in order to avoid the possibility of a quarantine situation on campus over break.

Unfortunately, this also means that we have to cancel the athletic spring training trips to Florida. While we recognize that our athletes, and our coaches, will likely be disappointed by this outcome, as always our main priority must be the health and well-being of our students. Given the possibility that our students could end up being quarantined in Florida, far away from family, if an outbreak occurred there, it became clear that we have reached the point where the risks outweigh the potential gains of the trip.

On the academic side, we will work to ensure that we continue to keep our students engaged in a meaningful process of teaching and learning for the rest of the week. That said, we do not expect teachers and students to be at their computers all day, every day. Our goal is to provide students with opportunities to continue pursuing the curriculum, but this will look quite different from the traditional classes we are accustomed to now.

Depending on the class and the teacher, instruction will take a variety of forms, such as online assignments, video lessons, readings, or real-time group chats or video conferencing. Teachers will continue to collaborate and communicate regularly with students and families and are available to offer additional support as reasonably necessary.

We will make loaner Chromebooks available to the extent possible to students who do not have a computer at home, and we will work with families to ensure access to lessons and resources. Please contact your child's advisor or the dean of students for details.

Students will be dismissed at 3:15 today, and as of now, we intend to resume classes as planned on Monday, March 30, but we will continue to monitor the situation actively and adjust

our plans as necessary. Please check the [COVID-19 page](#) on our website which will be updated regularly.

It was our sincere hope to make it to spring break without canceling classes, but the situation is unfolding too rapidly to hold that course. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Be well and stay healthy!

All the best,  
Bill Knauer  
Head of School