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College Preparatory ★ Christian ★ K-12

Dear PCCA Patriots,

I am writing to provide an update to my email last week regarding preparations for coronavirus readiness.

This is a fluid, quickly changing environment. Yesterday Governor Asa Hutchinson and the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health recommended that four counties - Pulaski, Saline, Jefferson, and Grant - close public schools for two weeks. Although our area has not received that guidance from the ADH, it would be wise to assume Northwest Arkansas will have instances of the novel coronavirus confirmed in coming weeks.

Some key local offices are moving to remote work, and some area churches are canceling in-person services for now. We need to do our part to "flatten the curve" of the trajectory of infection. To that end, we are implementing the following precautionary measures.

Monday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 17, will be considered "virtual snow days" for students. Our first "snow day" was in response to the tornado in the fall, so Monday and Tuesday will be our second and third "snow days" as a school. Accordingly, K-5th grades may be assigned homework on those days in math, literature, and history, while 6th-12th grades may be assigned a regular workload at home across all subjects. "Snow day" work will be assigned in the usual way with emailed instructions to parents from individual teachers. Creatively imagine we will experience an avalanche of snow over the weekend!

While students will remain at home for "snow days," we will ask all faculty members K-12th to come to the Patriot Collegiate Center to attend professional development training. The faculty development will be focused on how best to facilitate distance learning.

Spring break will now begin on Wednesday, March 18.

Following spring break, PCCA will at least temporarily move to remote learning. That means that beginning **on Monday, March 30, PCCA will begin conducting schoolwork online.** Teachers will be posting videotaped content and hosting periodic chat sessions that week following break. Parents and students will be receiving more details about how to access these materials prior to March 30. Families who lack a computer at home may contact Mr. Hopkins or Mrs. Abbott to determine alternate arrangements.

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Beginning Monday morning, March 16, all extra-curricular practices and rehearsals are temporarily suspended. For musical theatre, we are postponing the rehearsals and production of Holiday Inn and the grammar show for now and will work with the venue on other options. It was announced this week that the Arkansas Activities Association is suspending competitive play for now, as well, and certain academic competitions have been announced as closed or postponed as area schools work through how best to manage this unique time.

We hope it will be possible to resume in-person classes and events after a period of time of remote learning. As we enter April, we will examine whether that is realistic, or whether remote learning should continue.

To recap:

*Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17, will be virtual snow dates for students (and professional development training dates for teachers)

*All extra-curricular practices, rehearsals, and competitions are temporarily suspended starting March 16

*Spring break moves ahead to start Wednesday, March 18

*Remote learning begins Monday, March 30, upon the conclusion of spring break, and instructions will be sent to parents regarding how to start accessing that content by that date

Thank you for your ongoing prayers as we work together through this unprecedented time. I am grateful for our University-Model structure and the flexibility it provides, even as we work around environmental challenges.

In Christ,

David Smith
President, PCCA