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CHARTER SCHOOL

March 27, 2020

Dear Charter Families:

As we complete week two of our school closure, I wanted to take the time to review where we have been and to help you plan for the future. Starting on March 13th, our school closed for 3 weeks, with a planned opening of April 7. The focus at that time was to ensure the health and wellness of our community. In order to ensure equity, our teachers provided rich academic opportunities for our students. These were not mandated or graded. This was an effort to keep students engaged. The Charter School was in lock step with numerous other Charter and traditional public schools in providing these optional academic opportunities.

The current optional academic experiences will continue next week. I know that teachers have been in communication to offer examples of these different experiences. I also encourage you to connect with PBS Learning, which has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Please visit [WGBH Learning Opportunities](#)

With the Governor's March 25th announcement for an extended closure to May 4, our school has decided to move towards expanding our remote learning experiences. These will begin on April 7th. We hope that these experiences will maintain the social bonds that exist between teachers and students.

To help ensure that our families have the resources for this expansion, we sent out a survey today. Please use this survey to inform us of your own internet access and your ability to support your child with these academic experiences. Please respond to the survey by Sunday, March 29 so teachers can adjust their expectations.

Next week, our teachers will be working to develop their own remote learning plan. They will work towards building their own capacity on multiple platforms. This includes, but is not limited to: Zoom, Google Classroom, e-mailed packets, phone calls and virtual teacher office hours. Our teachers will work with Special Education and Pam, the ELL teacher, to ensure that the material is accessible and appropriate.

By Friday, April 3rd, you will receive a detailed remote learning plan that will highlight how your child's teacher will engage your child moving forward. **In an effort to promote student learning and to help get back into the rhythm of school, we recommend that the student follows this remote learning plan.** We want to be sensitive to our students, our families and our staff. We understand that every family is facing their own challenges during this health crisis. This remote learning plan will be flexible and it is not meant to add to anyone's burden at this time.

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High School students will receive additional specific guidance on how to complete course credit requirements.

As we learn more about our own capabilities and the path of COVID-19, this plan may evolve. Our hope is that this plan will guide us through May 1st.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our health care workers who are on the front lines of this enormous and historic health crisis. Thank you for everything that you do for our island, our Commonwealth and our world. At the Charter School, we recognize that this is a time of considerable hardship for our community. I encourage you to continue to explore the COVID-19 resources available through the Duke's County information page. Please click [here](#) for information.

We appreciate your support and patience during this unprecedented health emergency. In our faculty meeting this week, we reflected upon how much has changed in just a few short weeks. It was wonderful to see their smiling faces and they can't wait to connect with their students using a variety of platforms. Please stay well and I will be in touch with you next week with more specific details regarding our Remote Learning Plan.

Sincerely,



Pete Steedman, Ed. D.
Director