



COVENANT  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Covenant Families,

I am deeply appreciative of your patience during this unprecedented time. As I mentioned in my email this afternoon, we have been in constant contact with state and local officials, and area superintendents in regards to closing school for an extended period of time. Information has been changing at a rapid pace and I am making decisions based on what I know at any given time. We will step forward boldly and with confidence that God is writing our story and he makes no mistakes.

*The Lord is my light and my salvation--- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life--- of whom shall I be afraid? ~ Psalm 27:1*

As of today we are not aware of any identified cases of COVID-19 within our community, however, we know that can change very quickly. **Although the Department of Public Health and Governor Baker are not recommending school closures at this time, except in light of specific criteria, Covenant Christian Academy, along with many other area schools and districts will be closed from March 16th to March 27th.** At that time we will reassess to determine if school will reopen on the 30th. We are joining the growing number of schools and districts who are not willing to place our communities at risk and prefer to be proactive rather than reactive. I recognize that there will be some who do not support this decision and we simply ask for your trust in this moment.

I am making this decision out of an abundance of caution and love, particularly out of sensitivity to students, family members, and staff who have underlying conditions that make them more vulnerable to complications should they become infected. I understand the weight of this decision, the educational impact on our students, and the financial impact incurred for those who do not have childcare options. However, it would not be prudent or responsible to ignore the seriousness of the situation.

This decision will assist with the ongoing efforts of our communities to mitigate the spread of this virus. It is important to understand that closing schools is only a part of the broader solution to prevent community spread of the virus. If students and families continue to socialize in large groups, this initial two-week closure may not have the desired impact. It is essential that students and families do their best to practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC.

Over the next few days, we will be communicating additional information to you regarding our plan for the continuation of learning activities at home for students. Although many districts will forgo remote learning initially, we are ready to jump in and keep the habits of learning strong. As communicated to your students today, *Monday, March 16th will be considered a "snow day"* and no assignments will be distributed as we give our faculty the day to prepare

for the weeks ahead. Our faculty has put forth a tremendous effort over the past few weeks to prepare for such a time as this! I couldn't be more proud, as I have witnessed the passion, dedication and positivity that they have committed to this endeavor.

As communicated by myself and Tracy Bennett late last week, you will begin receiving information regarding remote learning plans early Tuesday morning and each morning thereafter. We plan to be in daily communication with our students to encourage them and to keep us all connected during this uncharted situation. While we are well aware that we cannot replicate the classroom experience, our faculty will give you their very best. Please enjoy this nice article in the New York Times about how to make the best of it: [NYTimes Remote Learning](#). If your child was not at school on Friday and you need to pick up his or her school books/materials, I will be at CCA from 12:00-2:00pm on Monday for this purpose. Please email to let me know you will be stopping by.

A complete status update will be emailed to families on or before Friday, March 20, 2020. We appreciate your support and patience as we continue to manage this ever-changing situation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As I committed to you a few days ago, I will continue to pray Psalm 91 every morning and evening in an effort to cover our community with prayer. Please join me, and invite your children to join you, as we lift our voices in chorus to our God who never fails us: Thank you and please be well during this difficult time.

Andrea Bergstom  
Head of School

### **Psalm 91**

1 *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

2 *I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

3 *Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.*

4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

5 *You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,*

6 *nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

7 *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.*

8 *You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.*

9 *If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,*

10 *no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.*

11 *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;*

12 *they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

13 *You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

14 *"Because he[b] loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

15 *He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.*

16 *With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."*