



March 6, 2020

Dear Grammar School Parents,

As mentioned in my most recent communication, the faculty at Covenant are proactively planning for the “what ifs” surrounding the coronavirus situation and are considering how an extended school closure could impact our learning community. We continue to pray that these measures will not be necessary, but all faculty are in the process of preparing contingency *Remote Learning Plans* that could be utilized during such a worst case scenario. Please note that the CDC recognizes that schools are not expected to make decisions about dismissal or canceling events on their own and that school administrators should work in close collaboration and coordination with local health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions. We will seek specific guidance from local health officials to determine if, when, and for how long to take these steps.

While we recognize that remote learning could never replace what goes on in our classrooms, we are doing our very best to develop simple plans that would keep our students engaged and learning while at home for an extended period of time.

Please be on the look out for a technology survey from your GS classroom teachers that will provide us with a better sense of what technology may be available to students at home. The brief survey was sent home today with all GS students and we kindly ask you to fill out one per student and return to homeroom teachers on Monday. As you are aware, as a classical school we embrace technology as a tool, but we do not use technology as our primary instructional method. Should we find ourselves in a remote learning scenario, there will be a learning curve for us all. We respect screen time limits as a regular home practice, but also recognize that unusual circumstances may make technology useful and even necessary.

In the Grammar School, the primary means of communication will remain email and teachers are preparing, should they be required, to provide lessons and coursework electronically for use at home. In a remote learning situation, teachers will be asked to provide communication regarding expectations, lesson plans, pdf documents, and links to online resources via one collective Grammar School email communication each morning.

As stated previously, we are praying that this will not become a necessity, but recognize we may have no control over some decisions regarding school closures. In preparation it would be helpful for you to consider the following:

Are learning supplies available in your home?

- *Writing utensils: crayons, markers, pens and pencils*
- *Scissors and glue sticks*
- *Writing paper*
- *A printer for materials distributed through email*

I would recommend picking up a few blank notebooks or journals next time you are out at Target or Walmart as journal response could play a big role in remote learning. This may be a good time to consider investing in a home printer and an extra supply of ink. As your children grow, all of these items will be a regular part of their learning lives and are important to have on hand at all times regardless of remote learning.

In the meantime, we will continue preparing while conducting business as usual. Though we are washing our hands and sanitizing our learning spaces more than ever before, it is important to carry on, protecting kids from fear, while encouraging healthy habits. We do occasionally hear children voicing concern about the coronavirus and will continue to reassure them without drawing undue attention to unnecessary or developmentally inappropriate concerns. I have included a link to an article about how to talk with your children about such serious issues that you may find helpful. Scholastic has also made some helpful recommendations that can be found here:

[Child Mind Institute](#)
[Scholastic resources](#)

Thank you for your partnership in uncertain times!

Andrea Bergstrom
Grammar School Principal