
ACTION REQUIRED: Wheeler's COVID-19 Update March 11

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To: "Laurie P. Flynn" <LaurieFlynn@wheelerschool.org>

Wed, Mar 11, 2020 at 9:37 AM



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Dear Wheeler Community,

Standing outside Wheeler School on Monday morning as I greeted students, I was struck by the utter calm and joy a (surprisingly early) spring day can bring. In contrast to all that is going on in the world and all the information that follows below, it was nice to look around and see small buds making their way up from the ground and at the edges of trees. Life at school continues: our Middle School Math Team has two students qualifying for nationals, three eighth-graders present their original research on the science and the promise of composting, the Cum Laude Society recognizes hard work and achievement, our cast basks in accolades after a stunning *Les Miserables* and the *One Act Festival* gets ready to go, along with all the other things, large and small that comprise a week at Wheeler. While certainly impacted by the challenging news of the day, an important reminder that here, Wheeler spirit continues undampened.

And yet, there is COVID-19. So please bear with me for a number of important updates:

- **Travel Survey (Please fill this out)**

Thank you to many of you who have filled our travel survey (link in heading). We are aware that your decisions and circumstances are changing rapidly, so please do return to the survey and **fill it out again if your plans have changed**. We are relying on each of you to be upfront on behalf of our community, our friends and neighbors and to heed all [CDC warnings and self-quarantine notifications](#). Additionally, we have added Domestic Travel questions at the end of the questionnaire, so if you did not yet fill it out because you were traveling domestically only, please do so now. If you have already filled out your domestic travel in the survey, you do not need to do so again. We will review this information towards the end of the break to ascertain individual and community health for re-entry.

- **Online Learning Framework**

Our Online Learning Framework, which will indicate the manner in which classes and learning will continue in the event of a closure, will be posted on our parent portal by early next week. While we will not be able to replicate the same dynamism of a Wheeler School day when we are all here, our courses will carry on, college counseling and advisors will be able to meet with your children virtually, and our

students able to maintain much of what Wheeler offers each day. A full Framework and other resources will be posted if closure becomes necessary.

- **Home Preparation (Fill out this tech survey)**

To prepare for possible closure, this Friday students should plan to take home pertinent books (eg. textbooks that are not online, class novels, etc.) that they may need to use for school. Teachers have been notified of this, but please remind your students to do so, as well as to bring their devices (when owned) home as well. **If you are concerned that your student does not have appropriate access to a computer with strong and reliable WiFi at home, please fill out this survey ASAP or by noon on Thursday and we will work with you to loan you a computer this week.**

- **Update Emergency Information (Please watch)**

Most families have at least one parent or guardian listed as an emergency contact in our website's parent portal, but please make sure that you have that information updated. Please see this video link in the heading which provides specific instructions.

A final note: we are living through uncertain times that require us all to look out for one another. Like many of you, my thoughts toggle between the science we know, all that we don't yet know, and the experience of a global sense of worry. But, I choose to believe that we are engaged in something bigger than ourselves: a worldwide effort to prevent harm to our friends, family, neighbors, and elders of our global community.

So, stay tuned in to each other, to the elderly, and the adults and children around us. Wash your hands and eat as healthy as you can. We're in this together.

We will be in touch during the break if not before. Please check your email regularly.

Take good care,



Allison Gaines Pell
Head of School

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