



CATE SCHOOL
commitment | companionship | scholarship | service

March 6, 2020

Dear Cate Families,

Normally the Mesa is quiet during a break, but not this year. The crews working on Booth Commons have stepped up their efforts to have us ready for an April opening for the new building. The admission team is preparing to send acceptance letters to some remarkable young people. And the bulk of the School's leadership team is meeting daily to consider the evolving challenges presented by the spread of COVID-19 and the best possible means to keep our students safe. I read a recent letter from Stanford University identifying the dual goals of enabling the continued education of students and preventing this pernicious virus from adversely impacting that mission. It is no small challenge.

The situation is quite dynamic, with California recently declaring a state of emergency to release funds to help stem the spread of COVID-19. There are no cases of infection identified in Santa Barbara County, and we continue to hear from the Health Department and County officials that our campus is one of the safest places to be.

It remains our intention, therefore, to stay on schedule and to welcome our boarding students back to campus on Sunday, March 15, so that we can begin classes the following day. In order to be fully prepared with all the information we need as we open school, we ask that you complete a [Spring Break Travel Survey](#) before **Tuesday, March 10**. It is simply four questions about your student's travel and health, so should only take about a minute to complete.

As I noted in my communication last week, we plan to screen all members of the community (students, faculty, and staff) for signs of respiratory illness (e.g. coughing and fever) upon return to campus. When first returning to the Mesa, boarding students should stop first at the Savage Health Center to confirm the details of their travel survey and have a quick temperature check.

The Health Center will open early at 7 a.m. on Monday, March 16, so that day students can also check in before going to class. Should a student or adult demonstrate symptoms, we will have them temporarily isolated in a Cate facility and we will have our health care professionals advise on next steps.

In addition to these measures to assess the risk exposure and health of our community, we will have

many increased health measures in place when students return including additional handwashing stations around campus, more frequent cleaning protocols, and some changes in our food service operations. Out of an abundance of caution, and in conjunction with our peer schools, we have also made the difficult decision to cancel our Revisit Day programs for newly admitted students. The admission team is at work creating a virtual experience to share with these families.

Perhaps most importantly, if your child is demonstrating signs of illness while home, please keep them home until they are well. Hopefully with all these measures in place, we can head into the last trimester of the year in good health and great spirits. Even in unsettling times such as these, there is comfort in the familiar. We look forward to getting back in session in due course and trust that everyone is enjoying the Spring Break.

Servons,

Ben



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