

March 30, 2020

Dear Seven Hills Families,

As you have likely heard by now, in a press conference this afternoon, Gov. DeWine has extended his school closing order through May 1, consistent with revised recommendations from the Center for Disease Control. He has also indicated that he will defer, until late April, a decision about whether schools will be able to reopen at all during this academic year. This is part of a state and nationwide strategy to slow the spread of the virus and allow the healthcare system to catch up with anticipated demand.

Regrettably, therefore, we will not be able to resume our normal face-to-face operations until that order is lifted, May 4 at the earliest.

Fortunately, as you have heard, our teachers and administrators have been working assiduously to deliver a robust remote learning experience, an effort that we launch officially tomorrow morning. You should, by this point, have received communications from the Heads and, in the Lower Schools, from teachers as well, about how this will work in your children's classes.

Though this effort is still in the early stages, because of the energy and diligence of our faculty and staff, we have every expectation that we will be able to continue to deliver on the school's academic mission in the weeks ahead.

Inevitably, of course, challenges will arise. As hard as we have prepared over the last three weeks, we will certainly encounter some challenges that we have not been able to fully anticipate. This will be a learning experience for all of us, and we will certainly make some missteps along the way. I can pledge, though, as I hope you know already, that we will be eager to hear your feedback – and that of your children – and that we will learn quickly and adjust our approaches as necessary.

Obviously, the prospect of a more extended school closure will require also that we think creatively about other aspects of school life, particularly many of the social events that traditionally enrich the end of the academic year. As I have said before, we will give thoughtful consideration to how to preserve, as fully as possible, the strong sense of community has always defined Seven Hills. These efforts will require both creativity and flexibility, but please know that we will make every effort we can to help your children find healthy ways to stay connected to their teachers and to one another.

I regret, more than I can fully express, that you and your children are having to go through this painful experience and adjust your family routines as we respond to this unprecedented global challenge. As hard as we will work to minimize its impact, we have to acknowledge that this experience will be really hard on everyone, and on our children, perhaps, most of all.

I deeply appreciate your understanding, your support and, above all, the confidence you continue to show in Seven Hills. I will, of course, continue to stay in close touch as the situation evolves.

Warmly,



Christopher P. Garten,
Head of School