

Dear Pinnacle Families,

As you may know, the Governor made an announcement this past weekend informing our State that public and private schools would remain closed for the duration of this school year. This came as a disappointment for us all, as we hoped to gain even a small reminder of our typical week at school, even if only for a short while. However, we agree that nothing is more important than the health and safety of our students and community and will persevere over the course of the upcoming weeks with the same virtual camaraderie that has been demonstrated thus far. The feedback from our faculty continues to boast of highly engaged students and thoughtful classroom discussions despite the challenges that exist in transitioning to a virtual learning environment. Our school-wide attendance is the highest it has been all year and your parent support continues to endure all distractions! This is a testament to our collective commitment to ensure that our students are learning and gaining important life skills that will undoubtedly serve them well in the future.

As we press on with e-learning, here are a few things worth mentioning:

I will be meeting with parents of Seniors in the upcoming week to review commencement plans and final details for post-secondary planning. In addition, I will meet with the Senior students to reflect on their goals and checklists. My heart aches for this 12th grade class and we will make sure that they receive the proper celebration and ceremony that they have worked so hard to achieve. We look forward to sharing a special dedication to our Class of 2020 in May with all of you.

In an effort to support our students who may be challenged with attention, focus, reading challenges, or executive functions, I will be offering two parent webinars to offer recommendations to improve success during e-learning for these students. These topics will be recorded so that you may watch them at your convenience.

Our faculty will continue to focus on new content in classes for the next two weeks. Following that, they will present a full-semester of review and application (as is typical of our end-of-year studies) for two weeks. During the final week, the schedule will be altered to accommodate assessment. Please note that **we will not be administering semester exams**, but will conduct formative assessment to assist the teachers in making recommendations for the end-of-year progress summaries.

Over the next few weeks, our teachers in the Elementary classes will be brainstorming a weekly opportunity for a “social zoom” or virtual gathering that is non-academic. This will allow for our students to engage in light conversation and share interests with friends. Our Upper school is hosting a few clubs and House challenges to keep student spirits up.

In closing, we will continue to follow our anticipated school calendar until the last day of school with the intention to host the summer intensive in July and keep the hope of coming back together on campus then at the forefront of our minds. I remain grateful for the incredible support, patience, and thoughtfulness of our entire school community during this time where we are faced with relentless change. This is the time where our Core Values of *Kindness*, *Gratitude*, *Community*, and *Respect* are an unmistakable part of who we are as a school “family”.

If you need any assistance or support, please feel free to contact our School Office. We are here for you and happy to help.

With Pinnacle pride,

Dr. Kirstina Ordetx