



March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

Several hours ago, Governor Hogan held a press conference during which he announced emergency measures the State of Maryland is taking to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. One of those measures is the closure of all Maryland public schools from Monday March 16 through Friday March 27. This is to allow buildings to be cleaned, eliminate large gatherings, and develop plans for a possible long-term closure.

AIMS (Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools), our accrediting organization, has asked that all AIMS schools follow the closure request. Fortunately, our building is being cleaned and disinfected as we speak, and our teachers have been trained in how to teach classes using distance and online teaching approaches.

As requested by AIMS, we will not hold classes in our building during the two weeks. However, we will be working remotely and online with your children during that period. Other AIMS schools will be working similarly. I will be conferencing with the Department Chairs tomorrow to finalize these plans, and will communicate those plans to you tomorrow or Saturday.

So that we can partner with you during the next two weeks, please let us know if you DO NOT have access to the following equipment and/or supplies at home:

Grade CG – Grade 3

- Crayons and colored pencils (any kind)
- Beeswax
- Water color paints and paint brushes (any kind)
- Scrap fabrics or yarn; other craft materials
- Paper
- Internet access
- A device through which your child could listen to a digital audio recording
- A device on which you (parent) could watch a video sent to you by a teacher
- Parent access to a printer either at home or at work

Grade 4 – Grade 12

- Grade appropriate writing materials (pencils, fountain pen, gel pen, etc.)
- Drawing supplies (colored pencils, etc.)
- Paper
- Internet access
- Enough devices (computer, smart phone, or tablet) so that all your children could be using devices at the same time
- Student access to a printer

If you do not have these supplies, or if you do not have access to the internet or any devices, please let the Chair(s) and Coordinator in your department know:

- CG: Linc Kinnicutt (lkinnicutt@washingtonwaldorf.org) and Lisa Bechmann (lbechmann@washingtonwaldorf.org)
- LS: Clare André (candre@washingtonwaldorf.org), Barbara Buchman (bbuchman@washingtonwaldorf.org) and Stacey Kornegay (skornegay@washingtonwaldorf.org)
- HS: Gabriele Schilz (gschilz@washingtonwaldorf.org) and Bonnie McClelland (bmcclelland@washingtonwaldorf.org)

You do not need to go out and purchase these supplies. This is only for our information at this time.

I know these are difficult times, and they will stretch all of us in ways we can't yet anticipate. While our first priority is keeping our own families safe, it's also important to consider the needs of others in our community and neighborhoods. Perhaps you have an elderly neighbor, or you know of someone who has no family nearby. If you can reach out to them in a safe way (perhaps a telephone call, or a meal delivered to their door), I hope you will. Including your children in this kind of outreach helps them develop empathy for others. Helping others can also reduce their own anxiety. We are a human community, and we may need to take extra steps right now to cultivate and reinforce our loving humanness.

I'll be in touch again tomorrow or Saturday. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions in the meantime.

Warmly,
Jennifer