



Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Dear First Presbyterian Academy Families,

As the news inundates us with almost hourly reports, I want to take this time to reassure you of our love and support during this unusual time. Our FPA family is daily being brought to the throne of grace. Our daily reliance on the Lord's mercy is being felt. Let's remember that the Lord is always with us in the midst of the storm. We need to call upon Him daily, and we are assured that He will hear our prayers. His grace is sufficient.

Yesterday, Governor McMaster announced the closing of schools until the end of April. As a member of SCISA (South Carolina Independent School Association), we are following the lead of the Governor as our school will continue to be closed. Other Christian schools within our community are also following the directive set by our Governor and SCISA.

With that being said, please know that we are having virtual conversations with our faculty in terms of instruction, expectations during this time, and next steps. Teachers are using various online applications to enhance the distance learning experience that started about seven days ago. Our teachers have been asked to hold regular "office" hours to assist our students and families. New material is being developed to meet the needs of all our learners.

The administrative team is looking forward and developing several scenarios that could be put into action if issues accelerate. Issues in terms of the following:

- What are the basics in terms of what is needed to develop the best student at the grade level they are receiving instruction?
- What forms of assessment could be employed to relieve stress, but capture the learning in a different manner?

- How can we better meet the needs of our High School students, as we keep them on track for graduation?
- How does pacing play a huge roll as the format of learning has changed?

These questions are among the topics that are being discussed. I do want to take this time to thank our teachers for their hard work during this time of distance learning. They have stepped up to provide the best, seamless transition possible. This is a learning experience for everyone.

Reminders:

- As of today, March 25, 2020, school will be closed until the end of April. As more information is released, we will be in contact.
- New packets for students in the Lower School will be ready for pick-up on Monday, March 30. Parents can collect the packets during 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- At the Downtown Campus, teachers will be in contact with each family in terms of when and where to pick-up new materials.
- The week of Easter Break will be observed; therefore, no classwork will be issued during the Holy Week celebration.

(April 10-17, 2020)

I would like to close with Numbers 6: 24-26.

“The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine upon you,

And be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,

And give you peace.” ’

In Christ,

*Tom Roe*

Head of School