



27 Daewangpangyo-ro, 385 beon-gil, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do, 13543, Korea Tel: (031) 789-0509, Fax: (031) 748-0509
www.kis.or.kr

February 23, 2020

Dear KIS Community,

Due to the recent increase in cases of COVID-19 in the southern regions of Korea, we have decided to close school Monday, February 24 through Friday, February 28. On Monday, February 24, we will hold a teacher professional development and work day to further enhance our emergency response plans to be able to fully implement an effective system of online learning. Teachers and principals will communicate with students and parents Monday afternoon to be sure we are ready to implement Virtual KIS this week. Virtual KIS will be in session Tuesday, February 25 - Friday, February 28.

In recent weeks the Korean Center for Disease Control (KCDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) confidently shared the ability to take effective precautions to manage the spread of COVID-19. In recent days, however, the local data appears to be indicating that we are nearing a point of widespread community transmission due to persons and organizations not following health agency recommendations. As a result, we are now taking additional precautions to include avoiding large gatherings, closing school, and instituting remote working conditions as the KCDC and WHO recommend.

The well being of our community is our number one concern, and we know that our brains need to feel safe to be able to learn and function effectively. Given the heightened state of worry and uncertainty in our community, we must first attend to one another's physical and psychological well being and be sure we have effective plans in place to provide quality online instruction and learning connections.

Thankfully, significant health impact and mortality rates from COVID-19 continue to be reported as being very low, especially in children. According to the WHO approximately 80% of all cases of COVID-19 thus far have been classified as mild, and 20% of cases have been classified as critical and require specialized medical intervention. Of those experiencing significant impact or death related to the COVID-19 virus, an overwhelming majority of patients have pre-existing respiratory and heart conditions. The KCDC reports that currently 49% of the cases in Korea are linked to a church group and an additional 31% are linked to a hospital in Cheongdo County. For additional information about the statistics related to COVID-19, please visit Worldometers.info/coronavirus.

We will continue to exercise necessary precautions to prevent further spread of illness and to be sure we are attending to the well being of our community to minimize the impact from this new strand of coronavirus. Once again, teachers and building principals will follow up with detailed plans regarding access to Virtual KIS tomorrow afternoon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michelle Quirin'.

Michelle Quirin
School Director