



DELBARTON SCHOOL

To Families participating in our Delbarton Global Programs,

I write to inform you that we are closely monitoring the COVID19 (Coronavirus) situation as it develops, and that we are taking the spread of this disease very seriously. Although none of our trips at this time will visit the affected areas, the newest developments, namely the cases in Venice and Milan, have prompted concerns about the state and safety of some of our European programs. While it is too early to see how Europe will deal with the outbreak, I am tuning in attentively and often to any updates I may receive from the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and the Global Educators Benchmark Group (GEBG), a network of my counterparts in schools across America.

The spread of the virus in certain areas has already become an obstacle to certain travel plans. I am aware through the GEBG listserv that numerous other schools have had to cancel their March trips to China or northern Italy. I understand how inconvenient and upsetting this can be, as even my own flights for personal travel were cancelled almost a month ago due to a layover in Shanghai.

Regarding the summer trips, we will stay vigilant as to how situations develop and how the different countries respond to new cases over the coming months. Among other parts of the world, we have two groups planning to go to Rome, one to the south of France, and one to Japan this summer, so those regions will remain a top priority; our moderators will continue regular communication with their contacts abroad, and we will certainly monitor the progress of the situation and keep the community informed of any developments that regard these, or any of our other, programs.

In the worst of cases, namely a cancellation of a trip, we will do our utmost to get your family remuneration. In the meantime, let us not forget to exercise best health practices here (as well as abroad). Please see the resource section on the COVID-19 Information page for best practices.

We ask that you, too, keep calm and let us bestow the prayerful attention of our community towards the parts of the world that need assistance at this time; that all the ill should find speedy recovery.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Pieraccini".

Dan Pieraccini
Director of Global Programs