

GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear GFS families,

As we get ready to head into Spring Break, I wanted to keep you up-to-date about what Garrison Forest is doing to respond to and prepare for the evolving situation around COVID-19. To help keep our community informed, we've developed a webpage where you can find all pertinent information. [Click here to view the GFS COVID-19 response page](#). This page will be updated real-time with any updates or communications.

PREPARATION

- We continue meeting regularly and monitoring the situation, including consultation with state and federal agencies and our peer schools.
- Though we do not anticipate a closure, we have been working on a contingency plan for several weeks, and we are prepared for any potential closures or disruptions to the academic schedule. Each division has developed a robust, detailed online learning plan that is age-appropriate and specific to the needs of their division and will provide continuity of each student's program. Faculty is ready to implement these plans quickly should the need arise.
- If we do need to close and enact the online learning plan, your Division Head will follow up with more information and expectations, but here are a few key things to know now to help your family prepare:
 - Technology used will vary by division and needs, but will be platforms your student has used before and is familiar with.
 - The main goal throughout a closure would be maintaining structure and ensuring that academic progress continues. You should anticipate academic time every weekday, but also time for exercise/recreation.
 - Teachers and advisers will be available for questions and concerns. Tech help and troubleshooting will be provided as much as possible.
 - Understanding that this is a challenging time for many families, the programs are designed to be flexible and accommodate different family circumstances.
- As we wrap up this week, each division will be having conversations with their students about how to prepare for a scenario where we may need to close.

You can also make sure your child is ready for a potential closure by doing the following:

- Make sure your daughter brings home any items she may need—books, supplies, computers, etc.—over Spring Break, weekends or other long breaks. In the event we need to move to an online learning solution for any period of time, she will need to have those items with her.
- Take a moment to evaluate your family's computer equipment and online access. Let your Division Head know if you need support or have questions.
- While our housekeeping staff is always dedicated to ensuring our learning and work spaces are clean and safe, we have added protocols to support illness prevention across campus. This includes practicing high-level intense cleaning and disinfecting, which we have been implementing since the beginning of the outbreak.

- We are continuing to look at the possible impact on spring events and activities through the end of the school year and into summer.

RETURNING FROM SPRING BREAK

- As recommended by the CDC, any student or community member who is returning from [travel to a Risk Level 2 or 3 country](#) or may have potentially been exposed to someone who has recently been to those countries should plan on self-quarantine for at least two weeks.
- We would also request any GFS community member who is not feeling well, regardless of where they've traveled, or who may have come into contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, even domestically, remain at home until you are feeling better or until you've been cleared by your physician.

Please know that our goal is to be prepared and keep you informed, but not to create a sense of panic or fear. We hope, of course, that there's no point where we need to close; however, it's important to make sure our community is prepared to respond swiftly and in an organized way as the situation evolves.

Don't hesitate to contact me, your Division Head or our Health Center if you have any questions or concerns.

Warmly,



Chris Hughes
Head of School



©2019 Garrison Forest School
300 Garrison Forest Road. Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
Ph: 410.363.1500 Fax: 410.363.8441
[Unsubscribe Link](#)