

GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear GFS families,

I know that many of you have concerns and questions about the progression of COVID-19 and what it means for your family, and I'm writing with an update about the GFS schedule moving forward. Beginning at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow, the Garrison Forest campus will close, and all activities, including athletics, will be canceled. We will be open during the school day tomorrow as planned, and Harford Heights will remain open as scheduled for Lower School aftercare. Following Spring Break, **beginning Thursday, March 26, we will transition to online learning** and will plan to continue virtual learning at least through April 10. Once we transition to online learning, athletics and co-curricular activities will not be taking place. We will continue evaluating the situation and will keep you informed if that date changes. You can also stay up-to-date with any news at the [GFS COVID-19 response web page](#).

Please note: These decisions are made based on the information we have now. The State of Maryland has scheduled a press conference for this evening at 4:00 p.m. We do not know what the content of this will be, but will be in contact if anything announced by Governor Hogan requires a change to our timeline.

At this time, no members of our community have been diagnosed with COVID-19, nor do we have any reports of specific exposure risks. Based on what we know about this virus and the speed with which it spreads throughout communities, we are deciding to move online to keep our community healthy and to do our part to be socially responsible in managing this crisis. We also encourage families to follow all guidelines and restrictions set forth by the CDC and state government.

We're announcing this decision at the start of Spring Break in order to give families time to plan, recognizing the potential challenges this may create. Students should be prepared for online learning by bringing home any needed items and evaluating any technology needs. Your Division Head will be following up tomorrow with more details about online learning and expectations around making this a successful experience for your student. Our Division Heads and faculty have been working diligently to develop an online program that not only helps students maintain their academic program but works to support their social and emotional well-being. Once the transition to online learning occurs after Spring Break, teachers, counselors and other support staff will be available to make this as seamless as possible. We understand that this is a time of uncertainty for everyone, and we are dedicated to supporting students and families throughout.

Thank you for your understanding, flexibility and support. We will keep you updated as the situation progresses.

Best wishes,



Chris Hughes

Head of School



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