

STEVENSON

March 12, 2020

Dear Stevenson Community:

I write to announce a decision that we have reached today regarding our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of this Monday, March 16, all three divisions will move to remote instruction. The duration of this action, owing to the fluidity of the situation, is indefinite. It is conceivable that it will be in effect through the end of the academic year. Though all employees will remain at work, students will not be permitted on either campus. Athletics and all other PK-12 after-school programs are suspended until further notice.

Please know that there are as of yet no cases of COVID-19 among Monterey County residents. Nonetheless, on the basis of our consultation with the county's public health department and infectious disease experts, we have every reason to expect that we--like the communities that surround the school--will soon be impacted. And our primary concern must always be for the safety and wellbeing of our students.

You and your children will soon begin to receive a series of communications from relevant division heads, deans, and administrative offices. Though we will endeavor to answer everyone's questions before they can be asked, we invite your patience as we navigate this unique challenge. Please note that:

- Upper Division students and faculty will be called to a community meeting at 3:00 p.m. Additional meetings will be held with seniors and resident students. With Friday being a planned in-service day, there are no classes tomorrow for Upper Division students.
- Lower and Middle Divisions will remain in session, on campus, until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13.
- We will help resident students in the Upper Division make arrangements to depart from the dormitories by this Sunday, March 15.
- Your questions and concerns should be directed to the channels provided on the [Community Updates page](#), which continues to document our actions, provide a library of our past letters, and offer a range of related resources. It will be updated to remain navigable as we continue to add crucial information.

We're in this unfortunate and disagreeable moment together. Eventually, of course, we'll reach the other side of this hard time, as we've triumphed over adversity again and again as a school. By staying engaged with one another, assuming one another's mutual good intent, and embracing calm as a practice, we will give a precious gift to our future selves, and emerge an even stronger school community. This is our shared responsibility to these

wonderful kids, to one another, and to a world in turmoil. In the words of James Baldwin, writing in the dark days of the 1960s:

Nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

We are committed to being as helpful to you as we can be. As this circumstance continues to unfold, we will devise a number of ways to sustain our relationship to one another as a school community. In this very important sense, though we are moving to remote instruction, we are still Stevenson. We are still Pirates. And eventually we will celebrate our return to one another with wild abandon.

In the meantime, wash your hands. Practice social distancing. Look to help others. Be kind. Be brave.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin M. Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "K".

Dr. Kevin M. Hicks '85 P '29
President