



HEAD OF
SCHOOL

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, and Staff,

The countdown to March break has begun in Byfield! Students were excited to receive an email from the Deans' Team last week declaring the Fridays leading up to break as dress down days. Student performers wowed our community with *The Addams Family* musical and the Winter Dance Concert over the last two weekends. And winter athletic teams are wrapping up their seasons with emotional last home games for the class of 2020.

In anticipation of March break, I would like to inform you of the steps we have taken in regards to both the domestic flu and COVID-19 (coronavirus). The Deans' Team, Duncan Health Center, and Academy Administration have been monitoring both of these illnesses since January, and the Safety Committee met in mid-February to outline other prudent courses of action. While we are taking many precautions, I think it is important to share with you some of the major ones:

- Given the restriction on flying to China, the Deans' Team has been working with Chinese students and their families to ensure that everyone has a place to stay in North America over March break, so they can easily return to campus on March 23.

- We have cancelled any business travel of adult community members to eastern Asia.

- Upon returning from March break, we will ask students, faculty, and staff to inform us if they have travelled to any area at high risk for COVID-19 transmission or been in contact with people who have recently traveled to such areas while on break.

- The Duncan Health Center, as is the case each winter, is well-provisioned for a flu-like epidemic, and is in contact with local health authorities as needed. We are currently following the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

- We are monitoring the CDC and other news outlets daily for global, as well as North American, infectious disease news. We are aware that the virus has spread significantly in South Korea and Italy in recent days. If need be, we are ready to support students who have plans to return home to South Korea or to travel to Italy and need to make other arrangements.

- We are meeting with the chaperones of our three March break student trips to ensure that they are prepared for safe travel to their destinations and back. These groups are traveling to Central America and Europe.

We will continue to monitor the CDC and other news outlets leading up to and during March break to make sure we have a good start to the spring when students and adults return to campus. We will be in touch as necessary.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable March break.

My best,

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