

## OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

January 29, 2020

Dear Members of the Austin Prep Community,

As has been widely reported, a new coronavirus, initially detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, has been spreading beyond China, including a limited number of reported cases here in the United States. As of this writing, according to the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#), all documented cases have resulted from direct travel to Wuhan, China and according to the [Center for Disease Control](#), “no person-to-person spread has been detected with this virus at this time, and this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States.” The risk to residents in the United States is low. As always, the health and well-being of those in our community is always our primary concern.

As you know, students from China are part of Austin Prep’s community. As a proactive measure, I am writing to let you know that none of Austin Prep’s students are from Wuhan City and they were in the United States as the outbreak was expanding. No student has displayed any symptoms and we are well beyond the incubation period. To that end, no one is currently at risk of catching the virus from anyone at Austin Prep.

You may have also seen reports that the United States government has discouraged travel to China, has evacuated American citizens from China, and is considering cancelling all flights between the United States and China. As a result, the students from China who are in our community – and our care – may not be able to travel home for the foreseeable future. And it’s unlikely family members will be able to visit with them in here in the United States.

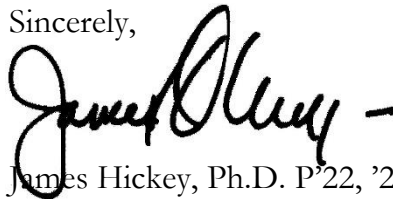
It’s important that we are compassionate and supportive of our students from China in the uncertain weeks ahead. I want to make sure our entire community is mindful about the stress the students from China are experiencing and that insensitive comments or behavior, however unintended, could make the students from China feel ostracized or unwelcome. That is contrary to who we are as a community.

In light of the fact that media coverage of the coronavirus will likely increase and more global preventative measures may be implemented in the days ahead to

contain the spread of the virus, we need to make sure that our response to this situation is guided by our commitment to Austin Prep's mission, embodied in *veritas, unitas, and caritas*. Our students from China are understandably worried about the health and wellbeing of their family – parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and neighbors. Our students are 6,000 miles from home and when they will be able to see their family next is uncertain.

Please keep these students in your thoughts and prayers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hickey -". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Hickey, Ph.D. P'22, '23, '24  
Headmaster