

# THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

Dear Governor's Alumni and Friends,

The continued spread of COVID-19 has launched our community, our country, and our world into an unprecedented and ever-changing situation. I write today to share with you how the Academy is responding in the wake of this crisis. The Governor's Crisis Management Team has been closely following news and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and independent school consortiums and has worked to develop a plan for addressing this crisis that is guided by two fundamental principles: to provide a high-quality educational experience for our students, and to look out for the health and well-being of all members of our school community.

Consistent with these principles we have taken the following steps:

- We have extended March break for our students by one week to Monday, March 30, to give our faculty time to develop distance learning modules.
- We have let our students and their families know that from Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 10 all instruction will take place online.
- All other on-campus activities have been suspended through Friday, April 10.
- All school-related travel has been canceled for the foreseeable future.

My fervent hope is that after April 10 we will be able to welcome our students back to campus and return to life as normal in Byfield, though all indications from public health experts seem to suggest that we must prepare for this period of distance learning to continue on well into the spring.

The following events have been canceled:

- Student Symposium co-sponsored on campus with Museum of Old Newbury – Thursday, April 16
- Grandparents and Grandfriends Day – Friday, April 24
- Boston Business Leaders Luncheon – Thursday, May 7

Reunion Weekend (Friday, June 5 to Sunday, June 7) remains on the calendar for now, but we will continue to follow the guidance of national, state, and local officials and provide updates as we have them.

Please refer to our [website](#) for up-to-date information on all events planned for the coming weeks. We have also created a [COVID-19 Response page](#) on our website for information about COVID-19 and school-related updates including an email that I sent to the entire campus community on Friday, March 13 outlining our approach to this crisis.

As I told our campus community in the email that I sent to them on Friday, I often think that the true character of our community shines through most brightly when we come together in the face of adversity. The great challenge of this particular crisis is that we will have to find our way forward without being able to be together in person to weather the storm. At this point we cannot know what the weeks ahead will bring, other than to say that it will not be the spring that any of us would have chosen, especially our seniors. As you navigate the uncertainties of the days and weeks ahead, I hope that you and your families are safe and healthy. Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time. We are grateful for the support of the entire Governor's community as we take steps to confront the spread of this virus.

My best,  
Peter

Peter H. Quimby, Ph.D.'85, P'14  
Head of School

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