



HONORING THE MISSION DURING COVID-19

March 22, 2020

Dear Boys' Latin Family:

Our community and our world continue to navigate the ever-growing impact of COVID-19. It has now been over a week since Governor Wolf closed all schools in Pennsylvania. As we await new information and updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, we will honor the wisdom of late poet Maya Angelou, who shared, "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them." At Boys' Latin, we will collectively work hard to ensure that our mission is not reduced. While our context for work and learning has changed, our purpose remains constant and true.

We thank our families for their commitment to that purpose this past week and in the weeks ahead. Students and families have provided great feedback thus far, celebrating the responsiveness of our teachers and providing helpful feedback to our processes. As such, we will be modifying some of the distance learning expectations in the coming week. Notably, students will now see assignments and subject areas grouped by days of the week:

- Math, Science and Latin classes will have posted work on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- English, History, and Elective classes will have posted work on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Due dates for assignments will be similarly staggered. We hope this configuration provides the structure for which many of you were asking.

This is new to most of us. But if we work together, it can become an opportunity for all of us to grow stronger as students and educators. Please know we are here to support you. As a reminder, please note that **students will have the opportunity to obtain grab-bag breakfasts and lunches on Monday, March 23, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at the middle school or high school.** Those interested will pick up their breakfasts and lunches for the week. The meals will be provided throughout the school closure.

Boys' Latin is also offering technology support. Please note, however, that our IT services are not deemed an essential service by the Governor, and their availability cannot be guaranteed throughout the school closure. Therefore, **if students need technology support, they must take advantage of the windows of time being offered this week:**

- Students may access technology support at the middle school or high school on Tuesday, March 24, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. If a student wants to borrow a Chromebook on Tuesday morning, he must email blaccountinfo@boyslatin.org with his name and grade level no later than 11:59 pm on Monday, March 23.
- Students may access technology support at the middle school or high school on Wednesday, March 25 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. If a student wants to borrow a Chromebook on Wednesday evening, he must email blaccountinfo@boyslatin.org with his name and grade level no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 24.

Please commit to communicating and following-through with these technology needs so students have the tools they need to learn.

Boys' Latin will continue to keep you updated with the latest information and plans for our school community. In the meantime, we are proud that the vast majority of students are engaging in distance learning, communicating with teachers, and grappling with new assignments and materials. Those who are not are reminded to embrace the mission of our school and hold themselves to the high learning challenges being presented. These learning opportunities are being offered to honor our students and their potential. Failure to engage in the teaching and learning process widens the achievement gap and deepens the inequities that exist. Let's all make sure that every member of our community is rising to the challenge.

Sincerely,



Noah Tennant