

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

March 26, 2020

Dear Austin Prep Alumni,

The last several weeks have been unlike any other we have known. During these extremely challenging times and unprecedented circumstances, Austin Prep continues to operate and pursue its mission. We remain grateful to the faculty, staff and administration who are enabling us to continue to teaching remotely, supporting students to remain current with their course of study and programs. I encourage all of you to join me in thanking them.

During good and tough times, our community comes together in the spirit of *unitas*. At such moments, we take the time to reflect on what is important in our lives. Our prayers go out to the entire Austin Prep community as they make sudden changes to their way of life to protect the health and well-being of themselves, their families, and others around them.

I want to share information about Austin Prep's response to the COVID- 19 virus and the status of life in our school community:

- Austin Prep has a [dedicated web page](#) with information, resources, and links to help our community stay informed.
- The school is following best practices in order to maintain the health and safety of the community including taking enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures.
- Per Governor Baker's emergency order, all public and private schools in the Commonwealth must remain closed through May 4, 2020. Austin Prep campus facilities will remain closed to all faculty, students, and parents during this time.
- As of today, we are not aware of any confirmed cases of the coronavirus at Austin Prep.
- Austin Prep is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) which governs athletic competition and as of this writing the MIAA has not issued any updates. Minimally, all athletic practices and competitions at Austin Prep are cancelled through May, 4, 2020.
- For our graduating students, commencement is one of their primary concerns, as it is the culminating experience of their high school years. Their capstone activities -- their rites of passage from high school -- are in question and it's absolutely heartbreaking. In a recent communication to the Class of 2020 and their parents, I was reluctant to make

any decisions related to senior class activities. Given all the uncertainty and how rapidly this situation continues to evolve, the last thing I want to do is make a promise I cannot keep. To that end, we have yet to make any final decisions.

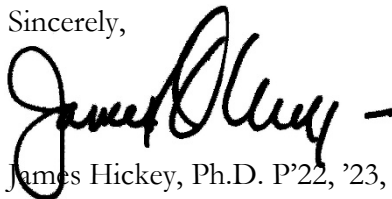
Austin Prep continues to move forward in unprecedented ways while adhering to the state and national health and safety guidelines. During the past several weeks, students and faculty have demonstrated remarkable resilience and flexibility as everyone pivoted quickly to online learning. We have never been more impressed by the courage and character of Austin Prep during this stressful time.

We are pleased to inform you that facility upgrades have progressed on campus with the rolling-out of the turf on the Lower Fields Athletics Complex last week. Through the ongoing generosity of parents, alumni, and friends, the [Igniting Hearts, Transforming Lives](#) Capital Campaign maintains its momentum. This project is a beacon of hope during these difficult times, as we look forward to student-athletes taking to the turf fields and new tennis courts, hopefully, in the near future. Your ongoing commitments and support, especially at this time, impacts the quality of life of our students. It sustains the Austin Prep tradition of excellence— an ideal we all have an opportunity to sustain. Our students and teachers need us now more than ever.

Additionally, we are humbled by and grateful for the continued support of the Annual Fund during this pandemic crisis. The [Austin Prep Annual Fund](#) impacts every aspect of a student's experience. Given the current circumstances, the Annual Fund is helping to support the technology needed for the virtual classrooms that our faculty have designed and implemented.

I hope that you and your families are safe, healthy and well. Austin Prep is always thinking of you, and we send our warmest wishes as you navigate through these complicated times. While our lives have been introduced to a new normal, what has not changed is Austin Prep's commitment to providing the highest level of educational quality. Together, we know only too well how valuable this experience can be—and together we will emerge from these times stronger, more resolved than ever to advance the journey of excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hickey", followed by a horizontal line.

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