



FORMAN

Dear Students and Parents,

One of Forman's greatest strengths is its community. The connections that develop between students, teachers, coaches, dorm parents, and everyone else on our campus is invaluable. How we understand each other's strengths and weaknesses, aiming to bring out the best in one another, sets us apart. As we developed a new schedule for our remote program, we have kept this idea at the forefront.

We also know that our level of individual attention and personalization is another hallmark of our success. We have never believed in a one size fits all model or that there is a single magic element that will be appropriate for every learner. We celebrate our differences, and our program reflects this concept. This was another key idea in shaping our new schedule.

Finally, we know we cannot replicate the experience of all being in the same physical classroom. A chemistry lab experiment or the throwing of a ceramic pot, as two examples, cannot be done in everyone's home. We need to be creative when it comes to creating a different, but just as robust, learning experience. Forman has always been at the forefront of being innovative in teaching and learning, so we feel we are well prepared for the challenge. Our academic goals, as always, continue to be around developing the literacy and numeracy skills for success in not just college, but life. We may take a different path to achieve these goals over the coming weeks, but we will arrive there just the same.

Throughout the week you will be receiving more details about our expectations, support systems, afternoon activities, and the academic program. By Friday, you will be able to see the schedule in LION. As a prelude, I would like to review some central tenets and components of the schedule. At the end of the first week of instruction, we will gather feedback from parents, students, and teachers and adjust as necessary. We know things will evolve and change and we value your input as we move forward.

- Most classes will meet twice a week for 20-40 minutes. This will be a time for discussion, small group work, questions, and other interactive sessions. We will not use this time for new instruction, but rather to connect and deepen understanding. On the schedule, the instructional block will be listed as an hour in length, but teachers will only use a portion of this time; the remainder of which will allow students to start their work for class or take a break before their next class.
- Teachers will post a variety of activities (videos, short presentations, demonstrations, readings, problem sets, and other content) for students to complete on their own time. We have also built in time when students can connect with a faculty or staff member for assistance with this.
- We will meet by advisory group four times a week (twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon). This will be the central touchpoint to check-in, answer questions, and make sure students have the support they need.
- Four times per week, teachers will hold office hours when all students can reach out for additional assistance. Teachers will likely also connect with students outside of these office hours, but we wanted a time in the day when all teachers were available for help.
- Some students do not live in the same time zone as Forman, and we recognize attending all classes and meetings is not feasible. We will be reaching out to you individually to identify the help and support you will need.
- Every morning, before classes, students will have the opportunity to join a virtual fitness class, yoga session, or mindfulness activity.
- Every afternoon students will have the opportunity to join an additional virtual fitness/athletics class as well as a wide range of activities hosted by Forman faculty and staff. These range from cooking lessons to movie discussions to games. All of these are optional, but we encourage all students to join some of the fun.

- Wednesday we will have our assembly and a range of special programming, including such things as clubs, a wellness seminar, an arts seminar block, and a college counseling seminar.
- In the evenings we will offer both tutoring and a new offering: the virtual common room. We understand that for some of our students the opportunity to do their homework in the evening in the dorm common room was helpful. We will host some virtual common rooms run by faculty and staff for those that want to join.
- Many of the Cognition and Learning classes will move to one-on-one sessions throughout the week. You will get further details on this later in the week.
- Three different administrators are overseeing different aspects of our digital program. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to them
 - Academics: academics@formanschool.org
 - Student Life: allie.maxwell@formanschool.org
 - Parent Support: mike.kowalchick@formanschool.org
- I will host a weekly virtual coffee talk for parents via Zoom conferencing starting next week. This is an informal chance to get together and talk. If you have a specific concern or question, please email or call me so that we can discuss this privately with the attention it deserves.

In addition to this programming, we are also offering small group and one-on-one student support sessions with our counselors. If you are interested in being a part of this please contact Charlene Halloran at charlene.halloran@formanschool.org.

We look forward to seeing all of you in the near future. Keep your eye on your email throughout the week as we continue to send important information.

Best,



Adam K. Man
Head of School

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STAY CONNECTED

