

This email contains new information about our extended closure due to COVID-19 and the appointment of an interim principal at the Upper School.



March 25, 2020

Dear AACCS Eagle Community,

Annapolis Area Christian School campuses will remain closed to faculty, staff, students, and families through Sunday, April 26. As many of you know, Dr. Karen Salmon, the State Superintendent of Maryland Schools, announced earlier today that public schools in the state will remain closed through Friday, April 24. The AACCS community's safety is not negotiable. To that end, AACCS K-12 leaders continue to follow public health expert advice while applying state and federal government guidance as we work together to support teachers, staff, students, and families during this unprecedented time in our nation's history. Additionally, all school-sponsored public events, activities, meetings, practices, and games are canceled through April 26 in accordance with social distancing guidelines from local, national, and global public health organizations. The Upper School's prom on April 25 is postponed. More details on prom and other community events will be shared when large-group events are safe to resume.

As you know, **AACCS's move to virtual/off-campus school begins on Monday, March 30**, and will extend at least until Friday, April 24. **AACCS is closed from Friday, April 10 through Monday, April 13, for the Easter holiday.** There will be no virtual school or office hours on Friday or Monday of Easter weekend.

Our four principals communicated specifics on AACCS virtual/off-campus school last Wednesday. Teachers shared more grade-specific information today. All COVID-19 updates and resources, including K-12 communications to families, are conveniently located on our [Health Advisory and Updates](#) webpage. Additionally, we are adding new resources weekly to our [Parenting Resources](#) page so that families are equipped with ideas and tools for honoring unstructured time in Christ-centered creative and relational ways.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement always, but especially over the last month. We -- the board, teachers, and staff--are praying daily for students and their families, many of whom are already heavily burdened due to COVID-19's widespread consequences. What lies ahead is in the hands of the One who knows. Isaiah 41:10's reassurance from our Lord and Savior is a powerful reminder that He is with us and in control.

Isaiah 41:10

*fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Upper School Leadership

You may recall in an email earlier this month that US Principal Dr. McCollum is unable to continue in his leadership role at AACS following spring break for health reasons not related to COVID-19. I shared with you that I would be selecting an individual from the US faculty to serve in an interim role as principal. After receiving the AACS Board's approval, I appointed Jason Burrell.

Mr. Burrell is a key member of our Educational Support team and one of our grade-level deans (GLDs) at the Upper School. He is an experienced school administrator who has served in a number of leadership positions in Maryland educational institutions. His experience includes serving as principal of a private special education school. In addition to the principalship, he later moved to a Christian school where his talent led the sponsoring church to name him their head of school. His experience as head of school there included merging a local early education center into his K-12 program.

Mr. Burrell's proven experience as a school administrator and his relational skills are a Godsend. He will continue his role in Educational Support through the end of the fourth quarter. Over the summer, Mr. Burrell will complete the transition to his new job as the interim US Principal for the 2020-2021 school year. The search process for a new US principal will launch this fall. All applicants will be vetted, and if Mr. Burrell is interested, he will have the opportunity to apply for the position. Finalists from the vetting process will be invited to AACS for in-person interviews conducted by a committee of representatives from the AACS community.

Earlier this month, I created the Principal Duties Team (PDT) with Dr. McCollum to facilitate a seamless and successful end to the 2019-2020 school year. This team of US leaders will meet weekly to ensure that we finish out the year as smoothly as possible and that we plan well for 2020-2021. Please do not hesitate to contact your principal or me if you have any questions or concerns. We are in this together, and Barbara and I pray for you daily.

In His Service and Yours,



Rick Kempton
AACS Superintendent/Head of School

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