



SINGAPORE AMERICAN SCHOOL

A TRADITION OF INNOVATION

Friday, May 15th, 2020

Hello high school students,

We hope you've had a fantastic week and are looking forward to the weekend. I *cannot* believe that there are only three weeks left in the school year. The time has flown by!

I wanted to reach out to you today to provide you with a few updates.

- **Your Feedback**

Over the past several weeks, we have been reaching out to you to ask two questions. First and most importantly, "How are you?" And secondly, "So how's school going?" We heard from hundreds of you in our most recent survey. Thank you so much for taking the time to respond honestly and for sharing your questions, suggestions, concerns, and thanks. A few of the themes are as follows:

- In general, online learning is going well, and you appreciate teachers' hard work and care
- The schedule allows you to get more sleep and come to class feeling more rested
- You appreciate (most days!) that you've had more time to spend with your family
- Some of you struggled to manage workload, though this seems to have improved recently
- It can be tough at times to stay motivated and fully engaged
- It's been harder to stay active, and you'd love more opportunities for work outs

Your feedback really matters. We heard some of the same themes when we reached out to parents and to teachers, and it is this input that has helped us to take some important steps.

- **Workload**

Over the past couple of weeks, teachers and PLC teams have continued to work hard to identify the skills that are truly "need to know" and to focus classes solely on those essential standards. Teachers have also worked to provide students with a very clear sense for what assessment opportunities remain before the end of the year. As a result, I know many students have reported that they have seen some really positive changes in workload in many of their classes. Please continue to talk with your teachers, to let them know how you are doing, and to ask for support if you need it.

- **Staying Fit!**

After students and parents asked for more organized fitness opportunities, we went ahead and arranged professionally run virtual Zumba classes and interval training boot camp classes during the circuit breaker. These classes are free, they're open to ALL high school students and faculty, and they're awesome. They happen Mondays and Fridays after school from 3:30 p.m.—4:15 p.m., and they're now listed in our [bell schedule](#). And yes, it is cool to have your camera turned off while you're

taking these classes! Here's the (mildly embarrassing) [promo poster](#) and here's the [link](#) to register. Hope to see you there!

- **Getting Support**

As we near the end of the year, I would like to encourage all students to make use of the Consultation blocks that are a part of our current [bell schedule](#). These blocks allow students to request one-to-one and small group support (and are just great opportunities to talk with your teachers and counselors). Consultation is available on school days occurring on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m.—9:15 a.m. Please send requests to teachers by email at least one day in advance so that a consultation time can be scheduled.

- **More Feedback Please**

Please continue to send us your feedback! Students can use this [link](#) to let us know how things are going.

Lastly, I just want you all to know how proud I am of our community. Over the past several weeks, I have seen students reach out to one another, to their teachers, and to our Singapore community to offer support. And I've seen students raise their hands to help us understand and tackle some really challenging issues. Keep it up, everyone! Take care of yourselves, stay strong, and keep an eye out for more updates in the days to come.

Very, Very Proud to be Eagles,

Mr. Ly, Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Zuber Meehan