

Dear FIDS Community,

We are all in this together. Recent events have and will continue to disrupt our lives for the days ahead. As challenging as this ordeal has been, I have been buoyed by the collective support of the entire FIDS community, who earn an A+ for their forbearance, flexibility, and support. Each of you is to be commended for finding a way to make this work. In addition, I now have greater appreciation for things like Wi-Fi, air-conditioning (something we lack after a hurricane), and—yes—a supply of toilet paper!

Yesterday, Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis used his authority to call a state of emergency. Among the requirements of his order is that **all Florida schools—public and independent—will remain closed through April 15, 2020**. Please know that the reopening date may be extended beyond the 15<sup>th</sup>. Either way, we are in this—together—for the long haul.

**1. What does this mean for the FIDS Community?**

Other than spring recess—when FIDS will be closed next week—FIDS will continue in virtual learning mode, minimally, through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

I know this is not ideal, but I thank you for your support and patience. We are reviewing the process daily and making tweaks based on your feedback as well that from our esteemed faculty. We literally pulled this rabbit out of a hat last week and I am extremely grateful to Mrs. Small, Assistant Head of School, and our phenomenal faculty for making the impossible possible. I appreciate your continued support of this endeavor.

**2. Who should I contact if I have concerns or problems with virtual learning or other school-related concerns?**

As is true during the regular school year, your first point of contact is your child's teacher. If he/she is unable to address your concern, please contact Mrs. Small or me. **Please do not post queries to school staff on the myriad message and chat boards as these are not monitored by FIDS faculty.**

**3. What school activities are canceled, suspended, or postponed for the foreseeable future?**

- All FIDS Active Hours, Athletics, and Extracurricular Activities (many of these will resume upon reopening)
- Field Day (March 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Parent Association Meeting (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- STEM Fair (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)

We will make decisions regarding the rescheduling or cancelation of the above events once we have additional information regarding our reopening. All school activities scheduled for May 2020 should be considered TBD at this time.

**4. Are there any changes to the FIDS School Calendar?**

March 19, 2020

We will continue to follow the school calendar for classroom instructional days; however, instruction will be delivered virtually through, at least, April 15, 2020. Please note the canceled activities delineated in response to Question 3.

**5. Are school counseling services available?**

Yes. Ms. Goggins, School Counselor, is available for virtual counseling during FIDS's business hours. Please reach out to her directly if you wish to schedule time for your child, [sgoggins@fids.org](mailto:sgoggins@fids.org).

**6. May I still hire FIDS faculty members for tutoring after work hours?**

Yes. Regular, day-to-day virtual learning is included in your tuition. If you wish to hire FIDS faculty members for tutoring or ancillary services, you should reach out to the individual directly and coordinate your own arrangements. Any such arrangements must take place outside of the teacher's contract day, e.g., after hours, on weekends, or during spring recess. In addition:

- adhere to all social distancing and small group protocols or engage virtual tutoring;
- provide your own ferry clearances (if applicable); and
- schedule such services in your own home or common area under your control. FIDS facility and campus is fully closed at this time.

Thank you for your support as well all dwell in our "New Normal."

Be well!  
Michael