



The Fisher Flyer

Official Newsletter of Fisher Island Day School

March 20, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, & Staff,

Following are this week's [FIDS](#) updates.

Quotes on FIDS Virtual Learning. We are practicing social distancing, but that does not mean we are unheard:

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We miss you—the remote school is incredible. The teachers are doing an AMAZING job.

Juliean C.

Now that I've had 3 full days of sitting with my 3 kids, I feel like I should pay more tuition!

Melissa L.

These teachers are amazing!

Nicole M.

First day of online school and it's going wonderfully! I can hear B laughing and participating in class. Every teacher was on and prepared. They even had PE! I'm super impressed. Kudos to Fisher Island Day School!

Jeanne C.

Great job with the virtual classrooms. It is awesome.

Katherine P.

I'm going to start logging-on to take Coach D's Tae Bo/Zumba online classes.

Michael B.

The Virtual Learning has been fantastic....Please thank the faculty on the behalf of our family as it is absolutely incredible how much thought and effort went into preparing the virtual curriculum so quickly. I would say this has been the ray of light during a dark period.

Ashley & Josh L.

Virtual school is up and running! . . . Thanks to all the dedicated teachers for making this happen!

J. Neff

You all did an amazing job, you are heroes!!!

Luisa B.

Since public schools are closed for the week, my oldest child is high-achieving, but has to teach herself the material and submit work while being at home. However, my other kids—who attend FIDS—are privileged to be able to continue the rigorous academic instruction with their teachers, virtually. It's amazing!

Kashleigh J.

Passing of the Mother of Suna Lee. It is with sincere sadness that I share the news of the passing of Ms. Suna Lee's mother yesterday evening. I do not have funeral information at this time; however, individual condolences may be sent to Ms. Lee's home. Once we have additional information, we will respond with outreach on behalf of the FIDS community.

Ms. Suna Lee
9155-B SW 23 Street
Davie, FL 33324

Spring Recess. FIDS will be closed for spring recess—both virtually and brick-and-mortar—Saturday, March 21st through Sunday, March 29th. FIDS will resume virtual learning on Monday, March 30, 2020. Our campus will be closed—at least—through Wednesday, April 15th. I realize that everyone's travel plans have been disrupted, including those of our faculty and staff. That said, I ask all of you to step back, stay safe, practice social distance, self-isolate when appropriate, and take stock of the things that matter most: health, family, and friends. We will get back on the merry-go-round on March 30th

Covid 19 Update. 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!

Recently, 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 15th. 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 15th.

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 20th)
- Parent Association Meeting (April 3rd)
- STEM Fair (April 22nd)

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?

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.

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 we all dwell in our "New Normal."

Best regards,



Michael Bell
Head of School
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