



March 31, 2020

Dear Terra Verde Families,

We hope all of you, and those close to you are healthy and safe as we continue to navigate these millstonish times. As we embark on the second week of remote learning, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your sons and daughters, the faculty and staff, as well as the larger Norman community. As we move forward together and continue to navigate uncharted waters, I am heartened and inspired by the responses we have seen in the last week.

We continue to closely monitor efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, and after careful consideration, have determined to keep **our campus closed through at least April 20th, 2020**. While we respect and appreciate the State Department of Educations decision on March 25th, 2020 to close public schools for the remainder of the year (this includes the option to shorten the academic year to end May 8th of 2020), our plans differ as we will continue to educate through our established EOY date which is May 22, 2020. Our determination on re-opening campus will be based on the most current data available and our priority will continue to be the health and safety of our community. We remain in communication with Oklahoma area health authorities and with schools and other organizations around the country to ensure we are making informed decisions. We will keep you updated as our planning develops. It is our strong desire to have our students back on campus as soon as possible as all of us miss them dearly.

We quickly realized last week that the emails on Sunday night may have been overwhelming for many families. **This is part of the reason I have limited my communication, as my priority is continued student learning.** This week, you should have receive one email with a google doc link or PDF that includes all assignments for the week (in all subject areas). We will also be integrating morning meetings via zoom for our classes. We recognize this will require your family to have multiple devices available. Mr. Bell has been delivering devices to doorsteps to families who need them. Please email me, ty.bell@terraverdeschool.com, and office@terreaverdeschool.com if you want us to deliver a Chromebook or iPad.

Per the state department of education, all public schools are required to implement a continuous learning plan----this is something our faculty and staff have already implemented post-spring break as our students will have two weeks of additional instruction prior to public schools starting their online learning. We realize many of you might have items on campus still. At this time, we ask that they remain on campus until further notice.

The past few weeks have been filled with memorable experiences. In particular, I want to acknowledge and recognize our faculty and families who have shown leadership, thoughtfulness, and initiative. Notwithstanding the extraordinary disruption to the spring semester at TVDS, each of you has stepped-up time and time again. Even over spring break, faculty and staff were working on a variety of fronts not only to support one another, but also to support our families. I've stopped by many zoom meetings with our middle and lower school students, and it is safe to say, without hesitation, that I have never been more grateful to be part of the TVDS family.

The spirit of commitment, dedication, and initiative has been on full display. I want to recognize the faculty members ongoing efforts to support and care for every student. Our philosophy this week has been "go slow to go fast" and our priority has been to establish rhythm, patterns and tools that establish a sustainable foundation that we can build on, improve, and expand. In the coming week, you will see changes that are reflective of feedback from many of you through surveys and email communication with us. Some of the top priorities include earlier communication of weekly expectations (not Sunday night at 8pm), more streamlined approaches to documents, and additional zoom meetings for certain grade levels. In that regard, I will be sending additional information about forthcoming communication and activities.

I continue to find great confidence in the spirit of our community and the strength of our mission. As always, we are squarely focused on the continued development and wellbeing of every student. Decisions in the days and weeks to come will be guided by our commitment to serve our families well. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out for support and guidance.

I've guided TVDS through some very challenging times before with the help of all of you. This includes loss of community members, difficult news regarding the health of individuals, campus floods (yes that happened twice!). The situation our community, state, country, and world are in now is as bad as any of those times--- maybe worse in some ways given the uncertainty. But we cannot seek counsel in our fears. What I can tell you about each of those challenges is that while there were moments of tremendous distress, when it looked like there was no clear way forward, our community ended up coming out of those times stronger than before. We were able to do that by not giving in to our fears, but by remaining determined and hopeful. By never losing sight of the fact that better days are ahead if we remain strong. The virtues for the month of April are gentleness and humility, attributes that certainly reflect our community.

We will keep you up to date as we continue to work. Thank you to those who have flooded inboxes with kindness and suggestions for improvement. I am humbled by the support of all of you. For now, we do not have all the answers on how we will adapt, or reschedule events, but we are working to get a gameplay in place.

With Sincere gratitude,

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