



April 7, 2020

Dear Terra Verde Families,

My first communication with you regarding the Covid-19 pandemic was almost a month ago and it remains difficult to fathom the changes we have seen to our educational system and greater society over the past few weeks. As I've previously shared, we are constantly evaluating and re-evaluating our practices, as well as preparing for when physical distancing concludes. Rest assured, there are amazing events still occurring within our community. Just today, I caught wind that one of our 8th grade students enjoyed a birthday celebration parade which included TVDS families driving by and throwing gifts/cards on to the lawn. This event is a testament to our resolve and compassion to serve each other.

I want to thank our loyal families for their continued support of Terra Verde. I also want to thank our faculty/staff for helping to lead us through this challenge. Their commitment to switching to an alternative education model has been unbelievably impressive. It is reflective of the quality/character of our faculty and staff as I know all of them prefer to be in the classroom with your child(ren). Finally, I want to thank the Wilson family personally for their steadfast and devout devotion to TVDS.

Given the ongoing public health efforts and restrictions, we are planning to keep the campus closed through May 1st, 2020. As you all know, this is a fluid situation, but right now peak models reveal April 23rd as the date in which cases are highest for our Norman/OKC community. Given the uncertainty ahead, as was indicated in previous emails, we are planning to continue distance learning through the end of the academic year (May 22nd). This week, we've made a few modifications:

1. **12:00 Noon Sunday Communication** - Faculty/staff will email families by 12:00 noon on Sunday with the information for the following week. This is a change based off of family feedback as we are balancing receiving new materials/putting together information with understanding family schedules/obligations to prep students for the upcoming week.
2. **Morning Meetings/Breakfast Club:** We have implemented morning meetings/breakfast club for middle school students to encourage routine and consistency. Please keep in mind that it is vital for sleep patterns and meal patterns to remain consistent as these are proven ways to alleviate stress and anxiety. The meetings start daily at 9:00 am and are open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. I would encourage participation if able.
3. **Microsoft Teams:** Our middle school students are transitioning to Microsoft Teams for classrooms. This information will be available through their TVDS email address as the platform allows for better organization between students/faculty. For this week we are sending the all-in-one document as well as educating them on the learning platform.
4. **Typing Skills:** We are offering typing skill classes for middle school students who are learning quickly to utilize technology for assignments.

5. **Social Time:** The addition of social time for our students as they long to communicate/chat with friends. These sessions are supervised by a faculty/staff member and help provide important social engagement.
6. **Health and Wellness Committee:** The purpose is to support our TVDS families. Over the next week, you will be contacted by a TVDS staff member. Please share any positive news or needs with us as we continue to serve our families. Our committee will then make targeted efforts to bring joy and provide support to those in need.
7. **Patience and flexibility:** Students, teachers, and families might be in circumstances that make it difficult to learn. From home and family circumstances, including parenting and professional responsibilities to limitations with access to needed technology, students, teachers, and parents must remain patient and flexible.
8. **Resources:** TVDS will make every effort to support faculty and students who experience technical challenges or have limited access to needed technology. Those who need support, including faculty and students, should contact me, Mr. Bell, Ms. Berryhill or office@terraverdeschool.com for support.
9. **Coordination:** Every effort is being made to provide consistent posting of assignments and interaction between students and teachers. If you have questions or need specific guidance, please reach out. Faculty across campus are integrating a variety of instructive software and technical resources to enhance and support student learning so remain patient.

I recognize that change can be unsettling. This year, we are celebrating our 10th year in existence and, without a doubt, this global event will be recorded permanently in our history. This is especially true as many of us were looking forward to celebrations and milestones that mark the passage of time. We continue to think carefully about how to bring forward our important traditions, not the least of which are the culminating events for our 8th grade students.

Terra Verde has an incredible culture, one that brings me tremendous joy. It is grounded in our ability to unite, execute, and outwork, while demonstrating compassion, gentleness, humility, and courage. While these times are and will continue to be challenging, I encourage all of you to lean on your TVDS family. I will continue to look forward to the day that I can fist-bump your kiddos again. Until then, be kind, be sustainable, and stay healthy.

Go Owls!

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