



April 28, 2020

Good Morning Terra Verde Community,

Over the course of the next few weeks, we would normally be gathering to celebrate events like Dad's Awesome Day, FAFFF (Fine Arts Family Fun Fest), spring informances, and our graduation ceremonies/socials. We also would be enjoying the incredible weather on campus, watching our students spend time together on the playground and at lunch, and have celebrated our student-athletes and academic team participants. It's the daily routine in conjunction with big events that make every day at TVDS special.

Instead, members of our community are doing what they can to help others by delivering protective masks to local hospitals and by donating to our local regional food bank. Our students have continued to complete morning meeting shares through thoughtful and heartfelt talks about what "they are an expert in." Last week, our 2nd-grade students advocated for all Oklahoma students as they met with state representative Jacob Rosecrants on Zoom. It brought me tremendous joy to hear our students promote trash-less lunches, outdoor classrooms, outdoor recess (regardless of the weather), and the inclusion of play when learning. It remains evident that our mission to preserve the joys of childhood and learning is alive and well---even in tough times.

Over the last week, new students and prospective families have been provided virtual tours and our faculty continue to stretch themselves in ways that were previously unimaginable. Their efforts to support not just ongoing distance learning and instruction, but also to deepen meaningful relationships with their students is laudable. Please continue to encourage your child to work hard, remain positive, exhibit great resilience, and resist the temptation to let frustration or disappointment rule the day.

During these last 7 weeks, my family has spent as much time as possible outdoors in nature. I've enjoyed a daily run (by that I mean chasing) with Josie, who has now figured out that her legs will take her most places that she wants to go. This included climbing an 8 ft ladder while dad's attention may have been elsewhere. As you can imagine, I moved quite quickly when I heard her say "whoa, dad look at me." Shhh, please do not tell Rachel about this episode as all is safe. Apart from that event, we have planted our garden, trimmed trees, and emphasized the importance of being good stewards of our environment. These activities also continue on TVDS's campus as we have finished fencing, worked on the gates for "The Nest" entrance, completed signage for the "The Nest", and continue to cross off "to-do" list items that will only improve our campus. These types of activities are great ways to relieve stress and to reconnect with our natural surroundings as we continue physical distancing. I encourage you to get outside with your family as much as possible.

Last week, I also had the pleasure of playing "Mad Gab" with Xander Brayfield. For those who have not watched the video, Xander does provide an extensive update regarding his treatment. We continue to remain positive and hopeful for a full recovery as we will receive more updates in the future. I know that participating in online games with students or even extending a phone call has a tremendous impact on their spirits (please send me an email or text if you'd like me to chat with our kiddo). What many of them don't know is that seeing their faces and hearing their voices also lifts my spirit. Like all of you, I greatly miss the daily energy of being together on campus, seeing our students interacting, watching them play, encouraging them as they prepare for competition, and learning from colleagues. We are all doing our best during these times, and I recognize it is not easy. I am incredibly grateful for the strength of community that we enjoy and have every confidence we will emerge stronger, more resolute, and more grateful for the blessings we enjoy.

As we head into the final month of school, our faculty/staff team has developed an event that should be great fun for all of our families. The first-ever Owl scavenger hunt in Norman will occur on Friday, May 1st, 2020. A special thank you to Mr. Nathan, Mr. Roger, and Ms. Eberle for putting together some awesome Owls (see attached image above)!

**Scavenger Hunt:**

In lieu of our scheduled FAFFF on May 1st, we have put together an evening scavenger hunt for our families and alumni from 5:00-7:30 pm. The details are as follows:

1. On Friday at 12 pm, I will send a list of clues to our families and TVDS alumni.
2. Utilize these clues to map out the specific locations throughout Norman where you will find a large TVDS Owl display (see attached image above) and a faculty/staff member.
3. Remain in your car, say hello/wave to the faculty/staff member, and snap a photo of the faculty/staff member with the TVDS Owl sign as proof of completion.
4. Upload all photos (10 total locations), and submit them via email to office@terraverdeschool.com. Those who complete the task will have their names entered into our raffle drawing. Names will be pulled via an online zoom video/Facebook live event and those will then be mailed to our families/alumni.

**Important Dates**

<b><u>Date of Event</u></b>	<b><u>Event Details</u></b>
May 1st	Family TVDS Owl Scavenger Hunt in Norman
May 4th	Standardized Testing Week Postponed
May 12th	Volunteer Appreciate Day Postponed but alternative plan in place
May 20th, 21st	8th Grade Capstone Project Presentations
May 22nd	Final Day of School
May 25th	Progress Reports Available
June 25th	Prospective Parent Tour
July 17th	Prospective Parent Tour
July 18th	BBBB Event
August 8th	TVDS 8th Grade Graduation and MS Social
August 9th-11th	Faculty Retreat
August 20th	Back to School Night
August 24th	First Day of School 2020!

In the meantime, I want to express, once again, my profound gratitude to each and every one of you — it is on my mind every minute of every day. This year has tested us in many new ways, but I am proud of how our community has responded. Thank you for never wavering in your commitment to Terra Verde.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Snyder, Ph.D  
 Headmaster, Terra Verde Discovery School