



Update from the Head of School

April 14, 2020

Good Day St. Anne's Friends,

Each week, I participate in virtual meetings to speak with educators from around the country about the impact of Covid-19. We talk about our children, families, faculty members and the community at large, each of us looking for reassurance regarding our path forward. We are all facing the decision of whether or not to reopen for the end of the school year, and each school has its unique set of challenges. We also all share the immediate goal of creating a meaningful routine of learning for children and families in what seems to be the new normal.

For now, there are no new updates on when our campus will reopen, and I will let you know as soon as we know. In the meantime, I draw encouragement from the words of a dear friend, Reverend Paula Lawrence-Wehmiller. She speaks of the strength of the circle and the fact that a circle expands when we are apart, thus keeping our community connected. We continue to find strength in and from the St. Anne's community. As such, we continue to move forward.

As we are into our fourth official week of our distance learning program, I would like to update you on several initiatives.

- We continue to receive positive feedback from families about our program, and our faculty engagement in particular. I could not be more proud of their effort and dedication in this regard. While we realize distance learning is a work in progress, we are committed to continually evolving, adapting and innovating. I often speak of the importance of having “parents as partners” during a child’s educational journey and it is in that spirit that I invite you to participate in an [online survey](#) related to your family's distance learning experience. Your responses will be completely anonymous, unless you would like to enter your name at the beginning of the survey. It shouldn't take more than 10 minutes and we would very much appreciate your honest and constructive feedback. While you may have been asked for input by individual teachers, we want to take a holistic approach to this process and our plan is to share what we learn as we look to improve the experience for our students and families. Thank you for sticking with us.

- Many of you know that our very own Amy Beth Sherman has been wearing multiple hats, functioning as an art teacher as well as our own in-house technology guru and expert. What you may not have known is that she is also a talented seamstress and has put those skills to use in making masks to use when out in public, something the CDC has recommended doing when possible. Amy Beth is making these masks for members of the St. Anne's community on a first-come, first-served basis. We will be placing two masks in a bag, which you can pick up in the front of the red doors, starting Wednesday morning. If you are interested in a bag, please email Tayler John at tjohn@stannesde.org who will confirm we still have a supply and arrange for pick-up, which will generally be available from 9am to 3pm for the remainder of this week or until supplies last. We will also start a waiting list as AmyBeth hopes to make more if the demand is there. Please make sure to wash the masks before using!
- The current situation provides us with opportunities to live out our mission. When we speak about our students realizing their potential for good in local and world communities, we are referring to making challenging, impactful decisions. Each day we hear about the selfless acts of our medical professionals, doctors, nurses, and EMT's. In the midst of these challenging times, they are working tirelessly, caring for those stricken with this virus. They are providing the love that is missing from family members while shouldering an unimaginable emotional burden. Wouldn't it be great to show our appreciation? We would like to start a letter writing campaign to show our support for these wonderful people. We are asking all who are interested to write a letter, share a prayer, draw a picture--anything to lift up the spirits of our medical professionals. We will have a bin by our red doors where you can deposit your offering and we will deliver them. You may address them "From the St. Anne's Episcopal School Community to our heroes." Let's take a moment to say thank you and to show our gratitude for these hometown heroes.
- Next week we will host a virtual parent information session (aka open house) on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30pm. If you know of anyone who would be interested in hearing more about our program for next year, please encourage them to attend this session and share [this link](#) with them. We have already heard from a number of people who are interested in learning about our School and we are excited about this opportunity to connect with folks from the greater community.

I would also like to take the opportunity to provide a gentle reminder and encourage you to complete your re-enrollment process. While much is uncertain as it relates to the next few months, I want you to know you can count on St. Anne's to be there for you and your family. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at bdavis@stannesde.org to discuss. We look forward to partnering with you on this most important journey.

Thank you for all you do and for keeping our circle strong.

Regards,

Barry