



Dear Parents,

We continue to monitor CDC and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommendations, guidance from the governor's office, and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). We are in the process of creating a COVID-19 page on the website to make it easier for parents to be continually informed. As public health officials have emphasized, school and work closures will not be effective unless they are accompanied by social distancing strategies. Considering the governor's recent shelter in place order, we ask that you restrict social interactions during this period and stay home as much as possible.

This morning, we sent parents and guardians Office 365 credentials for their children. Students and teachers will now be able to communicate directly via their Office 365 email feature. Over the next two days, teachers will be preparing Microsoft Teams for their interactive classes that will start next week. For Upper School students and grades 4 and 5, teachers will communicate directly with their students while setting up Teams. For students grades 1-3, we will send parents instructions on how to help their students with Teams.

The amended schedule that will be used for online learning is currently being prepared and will be shared with parents and students when it is completed. At that time, we will also share what our student expectations will be. Additionally, we will be evaluating the online platform daily as a team to make sure we are able to work through the challenges and improve the process as needed.

We are also working on a formal Distance Learning Plan (DLP) that will contain an overview of our DLP with more specific information regarding the different plans for ECE, Lower-, Middle-, and High School as well as time frames. In designing this plan, our primary goal is to preserve the integrity of our academic program as well as to sustain connections among the ISM families.

We are aware of the reality that all parents and guardians, as well as faculty and staff, will be juggling a host of obligations. Parents have the newly added responsibility of helping coach their children through new tasks and routines. Teachers will be conducting classes and supporting students while also caring for and supporting their own children.

Thank you for everything you are doing to keep yourself and those around you healthy and to support your students. Please enjoy this video of the teachers' poetry for you and the students!

Best Regards,

Nadia Reda