

Dear Westminster Families,

Frank Bruni of the NYT wrote Sunday that we are in the midst of a “life-threatening, nation-shuttering, wealth-decimating” crisis, unprecedented in our lifetimes, the effects of which will last for years. I suspect Bruni’s right, but there is another, brighter side to this crisis. There is an opportunity for much needed social growth and renewal, and that is the focus of my letter today. This opportunity is founded on two fundamental principles, both in line with Westminster’s core values, and they will guide our response to this crisis in the weeks to come.

The first principle, the first step to social growth and renewal, is to practice community generosity. We will do our part at Westminster to defeat this virus. **To that end, we have indefinitely suspended teaching classes on campus and are preparing for remote instruction.** For you, our families, community generosity means we are committed to providing a quality education focused on acquiring the knowledge and skills your children will need. Our faculty and staff have been given the opportunity to teach from home and provided with the tools and back-up support they will need to teach effectively. They will follow regular posted schedules as they teach your children live online. Middle Division and Lower Division schedules will be sent to you March 24 along with a scheduled preview for March 25, and classes will begin Thursday, March 26. Primary teachers will connect with the parents of Primary children on March 26 to discuss their schedules, and classes will begin on March 30. In line with this principle of community generosity, devices will be loaned to families who need them and internet access provided to families without it. Call your child’s division director next week at school if we can help with this. Finally, for all parents of children in PK through second grade, please remember to sign and submit the permission attached to this email. This will allow us to create a Google classroom account so that your child can participate remotely.

In addition to our commitment to practice community generosity, we are also committed to modeling a growth mindset for your children. We have long emphasized the value and importance of a growth mindset, and now is the time for us to show ours to them. We will certainly have to plan and teach differently, but our faculty is committed to designing interesting and creative lessons and to teaching your children effectively and well.

I know you have many questions as this new journey begins, and so do we. Some questions we can answer now, but most will take time. After our planning sessions and practice session next week, the process will be clearer and your child’s teachers will have more answers. As we move through the rest of the year, constantly analyzing what works and what doesn’t, things will become even clearer, and we will improve every day. We welcome your suggestions, appreciate your patience, and value your support of Westminster School. Focusing on our twin principles of community generosity and the nurturing of a growth mindset, I have no doubt we will be successful in providing a good educational experience as well as a good life experience for your children this spring.

Sincerely,
Bob Vernon

**Remote Learning for Lower and Middle Division Students Begins
March 26.**

Remote Learning for Primary Division Students Begins March 30.

- **Starting the week of March 23, you will begin receiving school communications directly from your child's division director or teacher.**
- **If you or your child were unable to get all needed books and materials before we left for spring vacation, please call the school and we will schedule a time for you to come to the campus.**
- **If you need a student learning device or do not have access to the internet at home, please call your child's division director.**