



COMMONWEALTH ACADEMY

March 23, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you likely have heard, Governor Ralph Northam ordered this afternoon that all K-12 Virginia schools close their physical campuses through the end of this academic year, providing educational programming on a distance learning basis. Pursuant to the guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, Governor Northam's order also applies to independent schools. Commonwealth Academy will therefore comply with the gubernatorial orders and maintain its physical campus closed through the end of this academic year. I know that this will come as a disappointment for many of our students, but this decision is an understandable one as we all need to try our best to help 'flatten the curve' and contain the spread of the virus.

During his announcement, Governor Northam also explained that members of the Department of Education were scheduled to come together in the next day or so to develop more precise guidelines for schools. Independent schools in our state follow guidelines issued by the National Independent Schools (NAIS), Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE), and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS). These associations work together with the Department of Education and determine how the state guidelines best translate to the independent school world. We will continue to closely monitor this situation and to communicate with you any important development.

The great news is that we are fully ready for this. Our Virtual Learning framework is robust and is in direct alignment with what VCPE and the Board of Education are asking schools to aim for. We are providing a genuine and equitable continuity of education to our students, maintaining expectations while creatively focusing on balance and the whole child (we're even able to enjoy Spirit Week!). We will continue to develop this framework as the semester unfolds and to find ways to thoughtfully and deliberately bring us together. The faculty, staff, and I miss seeing all of you and your children in person each day and we are committed to keeping our community close, even if virtually for the time being.

Last, but not least, I want to assure our Grade 8 students and High School seniors that we will find ways to honor them and their accomplishments. These milestones are important ones, and we will ensure that we address each with the decorum and care they deserve.

Thank you again for your support and trust during these unprecedented times. It is a true honor for me to be part of our wonderful community and to work with you and your children.

In partnership,

Anabelle C. Morgan
Head of School

EMPOWER
THE CHILD.

EMPOWER
THE MIND.