



Dear Community School Families,

It is with regret that I am announcing that Community School will keep its buildings closed through May, with distance learning continuing until the end of the school year on May 27. This decision was made with input from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, which believes it is imperative to continue social distancing for at least the next 30-45 days in order to limit the spread of Covid-19, and follows the announcement by County and City schools that they will be keeping buildings closed until the end of the school year.

We have been anticipating this possibility, and feel confident that our distance learning program is sustainable for the next month and a half. Teachers, students, and parents are working hard, and though the situation is not perfect, it is serving well as an emergency stop-gap. Thank you to those parents who responded to the survey over the weekend, as the data will help us further refine what we are doing. As always, teachers would welcome feedback at any point along the way.

Spring Events: One byproduct of closing our buildings is the cancellation of many of our spring events. Our on-campus Grandparents and Special Friends Day is canceled; however, we are in the process of creating fun and meaningful ways for children to celebrate their grandparents and special friends. An email will come out soon with details on this. More information will be

communicated as we near the dates for other events such as Meet the Teachers and Portfolio Days. We have also been working with sixth grade Grade Chairs to create ways to replicate our sixth grade traditions that center around graduation. An informational email has gone out to sixth grade families from Grade Chairs with preliminary thinking on this issue.

Extended Day/Lunch: Now that we know we will be keeping the buildings closed through the end of May, we will be crediting or refunding families for after school programs and lunch. As you know, we have already refunded mini class payments for the spring; in addition, we will be crediting/refunding payments made for the period of time Extended Day and Homework Club have been unable to meet since spring break. We will also be crediting/refunding all families \$250 per child for lunch. For families who will not be at Community School next year (e.g. those whose youngest child is a current sixth grader) we will be refunding these amounts this spring. All other families will receive tuition credits for next year.

Summer Camps: We do not have certainty yet regarding summer camps. We do know that families would love for us to have camp open, and we certainly echo that hope. Our plan is to make decisions regarding Camp as late as possible while still giving parents time to make alternate arrangements, so we anticipate announcing on May 1 the status of our June camps. We will announce a decision regarding July camps on June 1, and a decision regarding August camps on July 1. **I encourage you to go ahead and [sign up to hold a spot](#) at summer camps, as we will waive all cancellation charges if you notify us of a decision to cancel one week prior to the camp for which your child is signed up.** Of course, in the event we cancel camps all fees will be fully refunded.

Affordability: We know that this situation has adversely affected the financial situation of many of our families. It is very important to us to care for our Community School families, so if your situation has changed to the point you are concerned about your ability to afford Community next year, please reach out to me via email.

Our hope was to return to school this year, but our teachers, staff, and administration are resolved to make this as positive an educational experience as is possible. The children have taken that same approach; indeed, we have all been extraordinarily impressed with their attitude in the midst of this scary and unsettling time. Your work to provide them a calm and nurturing

home, where they feel safe and loved, is in great measure responsible for this. Thank you for your partnership with teachers and your care for your children. It is making a real difference.

Best wishes to you all, and stay safe and healthy.

-Bob