



March 17, 2020

Dear Nobles Parents, Guardians and Students,

As this unprecedented pandemic continues to unfold, and as we are all feeling a great deal of uncertainty and worry as we wait to see how this situation evolves, I hope you are finding more than a few moments of peace and joy as a family. I hope you are able to disconnect from the constant news feed to spend time doing the things you most love to do together.

I want to share an update on our planning and response related to the pandemic.

Update on School Closing

Nobles will be closed until at least April 13.

I plan to make decisions about closures, to the extent possible, in increments of a few weeks at a time. I want to avoid contributing to a frenetic feeling of constant updates and changes, and am similarly reticent to make any sweeping decisions around closure or cancelations of any activities unless absolutely necessary.

It remains my hope that we are able to come back together on campus this spring, and I want to continue a decision-making process that is slow, steady and well informed.

Virtual Nobles

With the decision to remain closed until at least April 13, it puts in motion our distance-learning plans for Virtual Nobles. A team at Nobles has been working very hard over several weeks to ensure our program can continue to the best of our abilities.

Beginning March 30 (when we return from spring break), we will begin a week dedicated to faculty work and planning as we move classes online. Virtual Nobles will begin for students on Monday, April 6. We will share a great deal more information about how the schedule will work and how we all will get up and running as that time nears.

Flattening the Curve

There is resounding evidence that we need to work together to flatten the curve of this pandemic. One of the most important ways we can all help is to practice social distancing. The Nobles campus is currently closed to all except essential employees. All staff are otherwise working remotely, and there are no meetings occurring on campus while we are closed.

Please help us in our efforts to flatten the curve by staying home and away from friends as much as possible right now. I know how much students' friendships and connections to the Nobles community matter, and I hope you can ramp up the virtual connections you have with others as we manage this trying time together.

Our Nobles Community

Over the last several weeks, I have been thinking a great deal about the Nobles community, and about the relationships at the core of the Nobles experience. We are faced with a time when our community and those relationships matter more than ever, yet we are physically disconnected and unable to come together in the same space in the way we always have to support one another.

We need to recognize that our community and those relationships are not defined by our physical proximity to one another. As I noted in my email last week, we do not need a building to come together as a community. In fact, I believe we will come out of this experience having a significantly clearer notion of what the Nobles community and the relationships that anchor it are really all about. We will learn what our community can do for us when we are most in need of strength, hope, and joy, whether or not we are together on campus. That will remain true today and for the decades that follow graduation.

We will be linking our arms together in the coming weeks to find our way calmly and confidently through the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. It will not be perfect, and I have no doubt there will be technical glitches and unforeseen roadblocks as we take our school virtual. But we will be in it together, and we will figure it out.

We are still intending to have morning assembly, advisor meetings, and club meetings. Students will have opportunities to meet with a psychologist, to talk to college counselors, or to check in to ask a teacher for help. We will make it work, and this journey we are on together will make our Nobles community that much deeper and stronger.

I wish you and your family health, rest, and rejuvenation for the remainder of spring break.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Hall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Catherine J. Hall, Ph.D.
Head of School