



March 27, 2020

Dear Class I Students,

I hope this email finds you and your family and friends faring well during these challenging and uncertain times. There is much to worry about now; indeed, I think you would all agree that the current challenges have helped bring into sharper focus some of those things in life most important—health, safety, friends, family and community. That said, this is not the senior spring that any of us imagined for you, and I am so sorry that so much of what you and we had planned is now in jeopardy.

Please know how much we care for each of you and how committed we are to doing all we can to make your final experiences as students at Nobles as special as possible. To this important end, Dr. Hall, Ms. Libby, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Halperin and Mr. De Leon will be setting up a Zoom meeting for all Class I students in the next two weeks to talk further about what we can and will do to make the most of your senior spring, so please look for an email with this invitation.

Today, I am also writing to introduce a special opportunity for Class I. Although Covid-19 has made it impossible for us to have Class I Projects run as planned, we write to offer all Class I students the chance to design their own version of a senior project, one that will allow you to explore something about which you are curious. For this spring, all Class I Students have the option to drop ONE academic class (while earning full credit for it) to pursue an INDEPENDENT PROJECT/PASSION of their choosing.

If you want (and are able) to continue the Class I Project that was approved, that would be fantastic. For those of you who have not yet planned a project or will have to evolve or change your project because of Covid-19, here is your chance to do so. Perhaps you would like to:

- Read the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Jane Austen, Toni Morrison or another author?
- Study a public policy/foreign policy or public-health challenge?
- Write poetry or a play, screenplay, novel or collection of short stories?
- Create a service-learning project?
- Research and write a family history?
- Take an online course on a subject of your choice?
- Explore a musical passion?
- Paint, sculpt, draw, make photos or engage with some other studio-art medium?
- Brainstorm a business plan?
- Learn a foreign language?
- Work on a political campaign?

Or perhaps there is something else you have long wanted to do? The spirit behind this initiative is to offer you time and course credit to design your own adventure and to explore a possible passion.

Please know that this opportunity is available to ALL Class I students, regardless of whether or not you had planned to do (and had approved) a Class I Project.

Due to the demands associated with our pivot to Virtual Nobles, we are not able to offer faculty supervision and mentoring with this endeavor. However, this does not preclude you from reaching out to faculty for suggestions and support—I am sure there are many who would like to mentor and support you in your work. We ask, however, that as you reach out, you please be patient, gracious, and understanding if faculty say their time prohibits them from assisting you at this time.

What you will choose to work on will be up to you. The project, however, must be safe and self-directed, and one you can complete alone and while adhering to Nobles' rules and policies (as outlined in The Guide) as well as the strictest guidelines of self-distancing as mandated by Nobles and state and federal authorities. You must also have the permission of your parent(s)/guardian(s).

Finally, please know that you are by no means required to undertake this independent project; your teachers would be more than happy to welcome you back into their classes.

If you elect to pursue this option, we ask that by Friday, April 3, you complete the following form:

[Class I Independent Project Form](#). Through this form you will:

Accept this offer;

Tell us what you intend to work on (a few sentences);

Identify the class you will be electing to drop;

Obtain permission from your parent(s)/guardian(s).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Mr. Snyder, Ms. Libby or me.

With warmest regards,

Michael Denning
Head of Upper School