



March 18, 2020

Dear Gooden Families,

As you know, the news about the coronavirus, COVID-19, changes by the moment. On March 12, the City of Sierra Madre asked all schools in its boundaries to close, and the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) Pasadena-area heads discussed the advantages of suspending in-person instruction before we were told so that we all had time to adjust. At this time, there are no known cases in the Gooden community.

Therefore, Gooden elected to suspend in-person classes and all instruction, student-related activities, and events effective Monday, March 16, 2020, through April 3, 2020 (with our Easter break occurring April 4 through April 12) and enacted distance learning which began on March 18, 2020. The school has also canceled all field trips and postponed the biennial Gooden Gala to a date yet to be determined.

In order to support our families, all students in first through eighth grades have been provided an internet-ready device to access the distance learning classes provided by the school. These include a blend of synchronous and asynchronous academic classes, co-curricular classes and other activities, as well as office hours for teachers, advisors, the chaplain, school psychologist, and the educational therapist.

We also encourage our families to practice social distancing in their own lives. This means avoiding large-scale events such as professional sports competitions, large gatherings, or smaller but highly social events such as parties. In addition to social distancing, another critical way to prevent the spread of coronavirus is to practice good hygiene. This includes washing your hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds or/and using hand sanitizers, especially after using the restroom or touching common area surfaces such as doorknobs, railings, and countertops. Remember to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Please do get a flu shot if you have not done so already, and continue to follow the CDC guidelines when it comes to traveling.

We are grateful for the support and willingness of the Gooden community to pull together and work together to get through this difficult time. Let's be kind to, and take care of, ourselves and each other.

Jo-Anne Woolner
Head of School