



Dear Randolph Families,

My goal for the near future is to provide you weekly written updates regarding the impact that coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on our school community. Additionally, we have established a [webpage](#) which centralizes information and resources for the Randolph School community.

The health of Randolph students, employees and families remains the School's top priority. We are committed to being as prepared as possible, and thus provide the following updates on this evolving situation.

### **School Sponsored Student Travel**

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we made the hard decision to cancel **all student travel, career shadowing, and community service during Interim week (March 23-27)**. We are working with each travel vendor to begin the process of determining reimbursement. We will communicate with each affected family in the coming weeks as we learn more. We continue to gather data from health agencies and our peer schools across the country regarding their current stance on upcoming student travel. This pertains to all student trips, including arts and athletics competitions that involve travel outside of the Huntsville area. We will provide weekly updates as additional information becomes available.

### **Planning for Possible School Disruption**

We continue to prepare to deliver instruction, guidance and materials, where appropriate, through our learning management systems, SeeSaw, MyRandolph and Canvas, should this become necessary for any period of time. Our faculty have been working diligently over the past two weeks to begin designing digital online instruction that would be meaningful and purposeful so student learning can continue to take place in a virtual manner. **Once again, if your student does not have access to high-speed internet or a computer or tablet at home, please contact your child's division head.**

### **Spring Break Travel**

With Spring Break quickly approaching, we are particularly mindful that many of our families have plans to travel. We encourage families to take the usual health precautions. As you evaluate your own travel, we encourage you to keep abreast of changes in restrictions for COVID-19 by using the [U.S. State Department](#) website to review your destination(s) before your departure, during your trip and upon your return. This information changes regularly and as such, encourage you to continue to monitor this website. Many countries have instituted restrictions and quarantines for travel into and out of the country that may directly affect you. Please be mindful that travel restrictions can change with little or no advanced notice, and airlines may change or cancel flights in response. **If you choose to travel to a destination that is under a travel restriction or advisory due to COVID-19 we ask that you notify the school prior to returning to school on April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Other Preparedness Measures**

Our faculty and staff are working diligently to offer a school environment that minimizes risks to our school community. We are cleaning frequently touched surfaces regularly and have increased the frequency of deep cleaning in the evenings and on weekends. We continue to instruct students in safe hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and appropriately covering

coughs and sneezes. Our nurses and division offices are carefully monitoring absenteeism of both faculty and staff, and we are pleased that, thus far, our absenteeism is in keeping with prior years at this point in the school year. **Students and staff who are experiencing any signs of illness are asked to stay home**, and we will work with each person on an individual basis to support them during the period they are away from school. Our partnership in these matters is key to helping us most effectively manage during this challenging time and is greatly appreciated.

### **Support for All**

We are very aware of heightened anxieties around this ever-changing and challenging situation. Our school counselors are available to talk with any students who may be struggling with concerns, and our school nurses are in close contact with medical professionals and health officials to keep us abreast of changes that relate to our school community. We are carefully monitoring the CDC, World Health Organization, State Department, and other health organizations, and receive daily guidance and resources from the National Association of Independent Schools. Links to each of these are included on the [newly established resource webpage](#), along with our most recent communications around our response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that our mission and community values require that all of us affirm the dignity of each individual. The strength of our community lies in the relationships that we value and uphold. I am grateful to our committed faculty members, who are working diligently to ensure that our students continue to receive excellent academic and program instruction, while also preparing for the potential for school closures and the best possible continuity of programming should that occur. As we partner with you and our greater community to meet known and unknown challenges, we are committed to keeping the channels of communication open and to doing all we reasonably can to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Jerry B. Beckman  
Interim Head of School