

## **IMPORTANT CORONAVIRUS UPDATE!! March 16, 2020**

Good evening to our TSCA Parents & Partners in Education!

We pray that you are having a wonderful week!

I am reaching out this evening to be sure and share with you recent developments as it regards the Coronavirus and schools. A lot has happened today in the wake of the President's most recent announcement to limit contact to groups of under 10 for at least the next 15 days. This recommendation applied to all gatherings of people, including schools.

After President Trump's nationwide conference announcing the most recent federal directives, the Dallas ISD came out with its decision to close all its public schools indefinitely in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. They will activate home learning beginning on Monday, March 23rd. Here is the link for the announcement.

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/coronavirus/dallas-isd-closes-schools-indefinitely-in-effort-to-slow-covid-19/2331774/>

As you recall, I reached out to families again on Friday before we released school for spring break to provide updates and additional precautionary measures to safeguard our children, families, and staff. At that time, I shared that we had sent home all TSCA assigned digital devices with you in case the decision needed to be made to close TSCA due to the spread of the Coronavirus. Now, the government and states are taking an aggressive approach to slow down the Coronavirus by "flattening the curve" and implementing social distancing guidelines. To better understand how the Coronavirus is spread and why an aggressive initiative like social distancing is needed, please see this link: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_to\\_your\\_health&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl\\_tyh&wpmk=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/?utm_campaign=wp_to_your_health&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_tyh&wpmk=1)

**TSCA is committed to doing the right thing, recognizing that all human life is precious and sacred.**

**With this in mind, given the federal directives today, and what is in the best interest of our community and nation's health and well-being, I believe all of us must unite to do our part to flatten the curve as well. So, we will be closing TSCA beginning on Monday, March 23rd. We will close indefinitely. PLEASE note the following next steps as they are important for the roll out of the school closure and launching a successful remote/distance learning environment.**

Earlier today, I provided our TSCA faculty with additional, multiple remote learning resources and tutorials for their use to add to what was already shared/discussed on

Friday. We had a great inservice training on Friday afternoon, and many preparations were made for a possible school closure. We have already determined to complete any needed training on Monday and Tuesday, March 23-24, 2020, to finalize our remote/distance learning plan.

**We are confident that we will be ready to deliver remote learning to our children beginning on Wednesday, March 25th!**

We believe this later start will also give our parents more time to get all needed arrangements made for their children while enjoying their spring break this week. Our intent is not to take away from your spring break vacations, so we have built in two extra days off, Monday and Tuesday, so you can hopefully setup all learning needs structures in your homes.

With all learning taking place at home now, please note the following:

1. **NO ATHLETICS**: Given the proximity of athletes and avoiding gathering in groups of 10 or greater, we are immediately suspending any practices, and we will be canceling all scheduled track meets. This puts us in compliance with the federal directives.

2. **SKELETON CREW**: Kathryn Brooks, Kelly Betts, Don Treadwell, Kimberly Brooks, Allison Pena, and I will still report on Monday by 8:00 am. We will comply with the 6-foot social distancing guideline while working. As teachers need to join us, we will allow groups of no greater than three people to honor the under 10 people in one place rule. Please know that we will still be available at TSCA by phone to meet your needs March 23-25.

3. **LEARNING PACKETS**: Several families shared when they completed the survey we sent out on Friday that they did not have Internet access or access to a home computer. Therefore, we will be preparing learning packets to pick up on Tuesday for those families. We will reach out to each one individually to notify them of their need to pick up their packet(s). If you are not able to come to the school to retrieve your child's learning packet, please let us know, and we will do our best to deliver your learning packet(s) to your doorstep.

4. **REMOTE/DISTANCE LEARNING**: Please be assured that we understand and respect the struggle our families will be faced with in the face of this dilemma. We know that older siblings may be charged with the care of their younger siblings during the day when their parents are at work. So, we have determined to avoid any live teaching where scholars must be positioned in front of their computers at a specific time. We purposed to make learning assignments available at the students' convenience so they could access it on their timeline during the day. We want to be patient and flexible in our demands of students regarding remote learning. And, we recognize that where there are multiple children in one home, it is possible that each child will be vying for access to a single home computer. So, we are taking all of this into consideration as we design our lesson

plans for the remote learning requirements. We are slowing the pace down a bit to be sure our students and families are not overwhelmed. We will provide you with explicit instructions next week as to how parents, faculty, and students will be receiving and sending information in this new remote learning process.

Please know that we welcome your feedback every step of the way as this is new territory for TSCA. We will endeavor to do our best every day to meet our students' learning needs while also communicating effectively with our families.

Thank you for your vital support as we work together to do our part to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus for the Oak Cliff/Dallas community and beyond. We cannot do this work without you!

Please know that we are not walking in fear, but in confidence, because we serve and trust in the most high God. He is the Lord of our lives and is our constant Companion through all the challenges we may face. We employ wisdom while trusting in His Sovereignty.

By the grace and goodness of the Lord Our God,  
Ladona

*Psalm 46:1-7 God is our refuge and strength, a great help in times of distress. Therefore, we will not be frightened when the earth roars, when the mountains shake in the depths of the seas, when its waters roar and rage, when the mountains tremble despite their pride. Look! There is a river whose streams make the city of God rejoice, even the Holy Place of the Most High. Since God is in her midst, she will not be shaken. God will help her at the break of dawn. The nations roared; the kingdoms were shaken. His voice boomed; the earth melts. The Lord of the heavenly armies is with us; our refuge is the God of Jacob.*

**Dr. Ladona K. Clayton**  
Head of School

Tyler Street Christian Academy