



Community Update

May 14, 2020

Dear Prep Community,

We have reached the finish line! The events and changes of the last eight weeks notwithstanding, a quick look through our extensive photo archive accumulated since last September makes clear that it was a memorable and wonderful school year – filled with joy, laughter, creativity, and discovery. We learned important lessons this year about courage, perseverance, and determination. We learned to work differently and to work together differently. All of that is worth celebrating and applauding! Bravo Prep!

To parents, thank you! Thank you for supporting and encouraging your students. Thank you for the regular feedback you provided to us at school throughout the year. Thank you for taking on the stress of rearranging your lives too. None of this happens without you, and we are grateful.

And to our faculty and staff. They are heroes of this story. They changed their classes quickly and unexpectedly – but in ways that ensured our students would continue to learn and grow. That doesn't happen by accident. It derives from a deep sense of commitment, a passion for learning, and love of students. Thank you!

Ending the Year

- We have scheduled **Wednesday, May 20 as Drop Off Day** for books, iPads, and school materials. When you come to the school, you also can pick up items left behind when we switched to eLearning. We ask that all materials come to school in a labeled bag for each individual student. Please plan to come to the school between 8am and 4pm. The drop off and pick up will occur in the Weber Center. The rest of the school building will be closed. Please refer to the Schoology announcement for specifics on how to return materials.
- We learned a great deal about eLearning in just eight weeks. Since we began teaching our students online, we have worked to engage them in sustained and meaningful ways with eLearning, while also supporting their social and emotional well-being. All families will receive an eLearning survey this week (if you don't receive a link to the survey, please let us know). The survey aims to build on what we learned to improve the quality of eLearning at Prep – both in the event we need to teach online again and to allow us to improve our traditional classroom experience. We look forward to receiving your feedback.
- After careful thought, early last week we changed our graduation date to June 19 with the hope of having an in-person graduation. Shortly after our announcement went out, the Governor's office announced that in-person graduations will not be possible. A planning committee of staff and faculty has convened to create a ceremony that fully celebrates and honors our graduates. Our students have selected both a faculty speaker and a student speaker for graduation. Mr.

Tom Grandy will represent the faculty, and Carlos Borgert will represent the students. Congratulations to both Mr. Grandy and Carlos! We will provide final graduation details to families of seniors by June 4.

Planning Forward

We are preparing to open for regular instruction in fall 2020, welcoming students back to campus and to Saint Michael Hall with appropriate health and safety protocols for students, faculty, and staff. However, because we do not yet know how the COVID-19 pandemic will evolve, we must plan for periods of both regular onsite instruction and eLearning, perhaps flexibly. Irrespective of the means of instruction, we will develop and deliver learning options that maintain our commitment to a highly personal and academically exceptional learning experience for all of our students.

As we plan curricular and co-curricular experiences for the 2020-21 academic year, we will prioritize the safety and health of our students, faculty, staff, and families. We will make decisions consistent with our mission and values – which commit us to academic excellence. We have organized into teams and will develop the plans over the course of the next 8-10 weeks.

We will communicate with you regularly throughout the summer as our plans and protocols for fall are finalized. The first day of fall classes is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

In Closing

As we finish our first year at Saint John's Prep, we are grateful for all of the wonderful support we have received from the community. Thank you for sharing your students with us! As we leave for summer, please enjoy this [video](#) prepared by our communication team – a celebration of a remarkable year.

To our seniors and all those who will not return to Prep in the fall, we wish you all the best on your next great adventure. You will always have a home at Saint John's Prep!

With gratitude,

Jon McGee
Head of School

Christine Glomski
Principal