

Collegedale Academy
Head of School update
3-23-20

Dear Parents:

As our country faces the COVID-19 pandemic, it is so reassuring to know that our lives have purpose and a direction. When you look at the story of Jesus calming the storm, we certainly gain much perspective. In Mark it says this, "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" I know we all claim this promise, that Jesus will calm the storms in our lives. No matter the circumstances life throws at us, let's stay strong in our faith of a loving God!

There are several important items, you as parents, need to be aware of and are included in this update. The faculty, staff, and administration of CA thank you for your patience and support as we work diligently to restore a sense of normalcy to our young people. Of utmost importance is our faculty's commitment to continue fostering a sense of community within their classrooms/class, in a world increasingly forced into isolation. Also, our focus in sharing an image of God who is stronger than any adversity in life is crucial. Our building principals will be in touch with you shortly as to how this process will unfold for your child. In this update, I will touch on the issues that affect us all ECEC-12.

1. CA will be closed (to all visitors – including parents & students) from now until April 12, 2020, with the plan that school resumes as of April 13, 2020. As this is a fluid situation, that time frame could be extended. Please continue to **check your email regularly**. We will use specific, live class times, as well as student optional "teacher/student question" times. We archive all lectures so students that may responsibilities can see lectures, etc. at a later date.
2. Academics – This week our faculty will be reviewing remaining lesson plans and standards that need to be taught to prioritize learning needs for the remainder of school year. Faculty will also be preparing for the possibility of teaching the remaining balance of the school year online.
3. CA will be using the Zoom platform, along with Google Classroom for instruction.
4. If students do not have access to internet or have a home computer capable of using Zoom/Google Classroom, please contact Michael Peel at mpeel@collegedaleacademy.com.
5. IF GRADUATIONS are canceled, we will be creative and postpone to a later date. Our students deserve the opportunity to be recognized for their achievement.

6. FINANCES – CA believes in its families and wants to support those who are facing a fiscal crisis due to COVID-19. With this in mind, CA administration is postponing all capital expenditures for the balance of this school year except those of an urgent nature. These funds can then support, in part, an Emergency Aid Fund that can help those among us that may have lost a job or income stream and need extra assistance as we close out this school year. Please contact Mr. Blackburn in the Business Office (sblackburn@collegedaleacademy.com or 423-396-2124 x5011) to discuss how we may be able to assist. Each case will be evaluated individually by the CA administrative team, as quickly as possible, to provide timely comfort during this crisis.
7. Following the guidelines that have been imposed on businesses operating during this crisis, the Business Office will be closed to the public until school resumes. However, payments may still be made utilizing either the online payment portal on the CA website or by leaving your payment in the drop box to the right of the high school front doors.
8. The Business Office will also be extending the Discount Day beyond the normal 5th of April in order to give families a bit more time to make payments on their school bill. If you need a few extra days or even a few weeks to complete the monthly payment that you would normally accomplish by the 5th, make the office aware of your specific plan to catch up and they will work with you to preserve your discount.
9. With the COVID-19 crisis affecting every plan you must make for the future, we know that the 2020-2021 school year may not be on your radar screen at this moment. However, we want you here when we start the next school year and are extending the EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT for your online application to April 30. We hope this extra month to receive the lower application fee of \$75 will help as you finalize your plans to be with us in the fall!

Activities postponed or cancelled:

1. Senior class trip
2. Grandparents day
3. Middle school field day
4. Alumni weekend including golf tournament
5. SAT & ACT testing
6. All music/sport events
7. All trips through the end of the school year

Today we prayed specifically for your young person and our families – especially those going through a crisis situation. God bless you all!