

March 8, 2020

Dear Explorer West Community,

A quick note to say that our circumstances have not changed since my letter to you on Friday, so our decision has not changed either: **We will be open for school tomorrow, Monday, March 9.** I'm aware that many other independent schools have announced plans for closure over the weekend, so I wanted to make sure to confirm this with all of you.

We are continuing to monitor public health guidance from King County, the state, and the CDC. We are also carefully monitoring the health and attendance status of our students, faculty, and staff, as those are other factors that could compel school closure. But until we reach that point, we want to provide as many "normal" school days to our students as possible.

Our teachers are continuing to prepare for remote learning. This week, even as we are in school, teachers will be posting all assignments to Google Classroom and introducing some other digital tools. This may ease the transition for students, if we do end up in a school closure situation. It will also help any students who are staying home for any reason (whether it's illness, caution, or any other circumstance) to have an easier time keeping up.

We will keep our extra protocols in place around keeping the building (and everyone's hands) clean. Thank you for continuing to keep us informed about the health status of your family. Remember that during this period we have asked students (and faculty and staff) who have had a fever to *stay home until they have been fever-free for three days (without medication)*. And, please know that we may use our judgment to ask families to pick up students during the school day if they are exhibiting symptoms of concern.

Thank you so much for the support you have shared with me and the rest of the faculty and staff. I truly feel that we are all in this together. That said, I know that different schools are making different decisions, and in any school community, people are bound to have a range of responses to big decisions. I will continue to do my best to keep you informed of the information and the reasoning behind our decisions. Please let me know if you have any questions or anything you would like to talk about.

In partnership,
Barbara

PS Another reminder that we now have a [page on our website](#) to archive all school-wide announcements related to COVID-19. In the event of an extended school closure, we will also use this page for family resources to support remote learning. I encourage you to bookmark this page!