

David J. Beare
Head of School

Dear Middlesex Students and Parents,

I hope this communication finds you well. Here on campus, there is a strange calm as workers put some fresh paint on Eliot, and the grounds crew works to ready the campus for the warmth that will surely come. Things are quiet and beautiful here. I have no doubt that this is largely the case where you and your family find yourself as well.

At the same time, this is an unsettling moment in the world at large, and consequently, in the spring term of our beloved school. As COVID-19 continues to spread and restrictions are extended locally and abroad, Middlesex's COVID-19 group has been meeting every other day to develop plans for the best possible outcomes for safety, health and the learning of our students and staff.

With the good input of that group, and in consultation with our Board Chair, Steve Lari '90, **we have decided to extend spring break until March 30th, at which point all students will begin a remote learning program that will run through at least April 3rd.** Campus will then reopen for a phased return on April 5th, and we are planning to resume regular "in person" classes on April 7th.

Faculty will still return to campus on March 23rd, as originally scheduled, and they will spend the week continuing to develop a robust online curriculum that will begin on March 30th. Our goal is to provide the best possible learning environment for the students and remain flexible in our responses, even as circumstances swirl and change around us.

There are many moving parts to this adjusted schedule, and we ask that you read the following details carefully:

Extended Break and Online Learning

- Any student unable to return home or find a suitable living arrangement for the period between March 25th and April 5th should contact the Deans' Office for assistance (978-371-6546; deans@mxschool.edu). We insist that no students, faculty or staff travel to any country that the [CDC has identified as having a Level 2 or 3 warning](#) for COVID-19. Please note that this list from the CDC may change from day to day, and if there is travel to highly affected areas, the likelihood that the person will be excluded from campus is very high.
- Middlesex has the technological resources to deliver live, interactive classes online, and students will receive detailed instructions on how to access their courses prior to their first online class on March 30th. If online connectivity issues or other technological limitations might impede a student's access to classes, [please fill out this brief survey](#) and our Technology Office will work with you to find a solution.

- For the interim period between now and the planned reopening of campus on April 5th, there will be no athletic practices, captains' practices, or music/theatre rehearsals. The Athletic Center will be closed, and we ask that students not use any Middlesex fields. The campus will also be closed to all outside parties who rent our facilities for various indoor and outdoor activities. These measures will allow our facilities team to extensively clean and prepare campus for the safe return of faculty and students.
- For our F-1 students, we are working with SEVP to ensure continuity of instruction. If you have questions about your status, please contact Leanne Winkler (lwinkler@mxschool.edu).

Phased Return to Campus

- Upon arriving back to campus, all students **must report to Stufac for mandatory health screenings** conducted by the Cruz Health Center staff. This screening process will supplement a required Health & Travel Survey that students will receive over email **two days** prior to their return.
- To improve the flow and efficiency of the health screening process, students should only return to campus according to the following schedule:

Students travelling from outside New England should plan to return to campus for their health screening on **Sunday, April 5th**.

Students from within New England (including all Day Students) should plan to arrive on campus for their screening on **Monday, April 6th**.

Next week, all students will receive an email with a personal appointment time for their health screening. Appointment times cannot be swapped or changed; if a student cannot make their appointment due to extenuating circumstances, please contact the Deans' Office.

- **Students should report directly to Stufac for their screening.** They may not enter dorms, attend classes, or use any campus facilities until they have completed their appointment and are cleared by the health center.
- Along with students, all faculty and staff will attend health screenings, and while this deliberate "onboarding" process should help mitigate the spread of potential illness, it's important to note that our campus, like any location, isn't devoid of health risks. To minimize the chance of viral transmission, the School will be making several temporary adjustments, including modified serving procedures in the dining hall and the suspension of large School gatherings such as chapel and assembly.

We understand that this modified return from spring break necessitates families to adjust (considerably, in some cases) their travel plans, and we remain deeply grateful for the community's flexibility and support as we respond to the ever-changing landscape and regulations related to COVID-19.

Delaying the reopening of school is a significant decision, and one we've made after carefully evaluating the best available health and educational information. A cautious approach to this global health concern is in the best interest of our own community, and, as we continually emphasize to our students throughout their time here, we at Middlesex must always be mindful of our broader responsibility as global citizens to help improve the wellbeing of others, both near and far. Delaying school as a means of social distancing will help curtail the communal spread of COVID-19.

Please continue to monitor your email for additional updates from Middlesex, as evolving information may necessitate further adjustments to students' return to campus. If a shift in local circumstances requires further delay of our targeted reopening date, we will provide you with as much notice as possible to alter travel and other family arrangements. The COVID-19 Advisory Committee will continue to meet regularly, and going forward you can expect official email updates from the School every Thursday. You can also find all official announcements from Middlesex at mxschool.edu/covid19, which will always have the most up-to-date information from the School.

As always, we appreciate your flexibility, good will, and support of the School and the students. This challenge is also an opportunity for a new and different kind of coming together, and a moment when we can all reflect on the strength and opportunities our school community, and our families, provide all of us.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Beare". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

David J. Beare
Head of School