



David J. Beare
Head of School

Dear Middlesex Students and Parents,

This morning, in the first of many tests of our technological prowess, the entire Middlesex faculty gathered virtually in a video conference for our first meeting of the spring. The digital setting undoubtedly felt a little strange to many of us, but any awkwardness was overshadowed by a spirit of camaraderie and goodwill as we all got back to the business of doing what we love: thinking, together, about how best to provide an excellent school environment for our students. This entire week the faculty is continuing our work designing a substantive online program, and while this new academic medium presents some challenges, there is something invigorating about rethinking what classes, community, and our commitment to athletics can look like in a new and different setting.

We also continue to examine the potential impact of the novel coronavirus. Yesterday, members of our COVID-19 Advisory Group met with the Middlesex Board of Trustees to discuss an updated plan for the remainder of the semester. The health and safety of our community is our first concern, and if you've been following the evolving mandates from national and local officials, it will come as no surprise that we simply will not be able to reopen to students on April 5, as we had originally hoped.

And while it's possible, and perhaps even likely, that health considerations will prevent campus from reopening at any point this spring, we believe it's imperative to preserve, for a few more weeks, the possibility of a reopening.

Our online curriculum will begin as planned on March 30, and it will now extend to April 24. If it is safe to do so, the campus will then reopen for in-person classes the week of April 27. To allow our Health Center the necessary time needed to screen our returning students, there will be a phased return to campus during the days leading up to the resumption of classes. Students will be notified of their scheduled return and health screening later in April. The COVID-19 Advisory Group, in close consultation with the trustees, will make a determination in *early* April as to whether or not we will be able to safely reopen the School on April 27. I will communicate that decision as soon as possible thereafter.

Given the severity and uncertainty of this pandemic, we continue to urge all students to travel to their homes, even if that means a student may have trouble returning to campus in late April. The School feels strongly that families should make travel decisions based solely on what is safest for their children, and we will accommodate the learning of any student unable to return to Concord due to travel restrictions.

Students should closely monitor their e-mail later this week for a message from the Academic Office and me that will include further details about the online curriculum, as well as a modified distance learning schedule. Even as we are engaging the curriculum and each other from many different towns and cities across the country and around the world, we will be identifiably Middlesex.

I hope the remainder of this week is restful for you and your family. I'm confident that next week, our students will find the return to classes and activities—to engaging ideas and scholarship and collaborating with friends—an invigorating and much needed restoration of routine. We may be distanced physically, but I look forward to school again, with its profound sense of connection, security, and hope. I miss you all!

With best regards,

David J. Beare
Head of School