



David J. Beare
Head of School

April 8, 2020

Dear Members of the Middlesex Community,

Two weeks ago, I wrote to you that the COVID-19 Advisory Group, in close consultation with the board of trustees, would make a determination in early April as to whether or not we would be able to return to campus in May to finish out our year together. I write today with the difficult but unavoidable news that we cannot. Indeed, we must not, and I'm sorry that this has come to pass.

This is news that I and every member of the staff and faculty had hoped I would not need to convey. Along with the trustees, we wanted to wait and see if social distancing, travel restrictions, stay-at-home orders, and other measures would be successful enough for us to be able to gather together without undue risk in our classrooms, our teams, our dorms, and our advisories. While these measures have met with some success in curbing the spread of the virus, we must keep the full-court press on. It is clear now that we must complete the school year with online learning for the safety and health of individual members of our community, their families, and the wider community of which we are a part.

This outcome is both necessary and deeply disappointing to all of us who work, live, and learn on this beautiful campus, and for our seniors it is especially heartbreaking. This is not how any of us envisioned the spring.

To the members of the class of 2020: You are a delightful, smart, and talented group of young people, and Middlesex is committed to providing a fitting sense of closure to your time at the School. We are already exploring various possibilities for a full celebration of the class, and although the evolving nature of this pandemic prevents us from confirming when and how this will happen, please rest assured there will be an opportunity for you and your classmates to reunite and celebrate with your friends, family, and faculty. We also have a contingency plan for you to complete your plaques, as you know from Darby's recent e-mails.

For all families and their students: As you know, MX Online is up and running well. I have been heartened to see the vitality and participation evident in team and community experiences, advisories, and classes themselves. We have retained the School's trademark emphasis on personal relationships and community as the cornerstone of an excellent intellectual, physical, ethical, and creative experience – MX Online is very identifiably Middlesex, and the continuity of program is important to our students' development. With the move online, though, there are other details we need to attend to. The trustees, CFO Terry Cunningham, and fellow administrators are looking into what portion of boarding and meal expenses should return to you in recognition that these costs will not be incurred by the School. In addition, the Deans' Office is developing a detailed procedure for the collection of personal belongings from dorms and lockers. Further details will be e-mailed to students and families on these and other topics in the coming weeks.

For alumni: I know that the Alumni Office has communicated a plan to restructure Alumni Weekend, and I look forward to greeting and getting to know many of you there in 2021, as well as at the many alumni gatherings we will hold in the coming year. In the meantime, I would like you to have a sense of what is happening here this spring, and I will be sending an update about the MX Online program under separate cover, with video updates periodically throughout the spring.

A crisis such as this pandemic serves to distill what is special about our Middlesex community. I have been deeply impressed with the energy and dedication of both teachers and students as they make MX Online a valuable experience and a fruitful avenue of intellectual growth and community cohesion. I know the trustees, parents, alumni, and friends of the School are behind us. And I believe that, despite the disruption and disappointment, we will grow in goodness through this experience, together.

I sincerely hope this letter finds you and your family and friends well and safe, and that you remain so. I thank each and every one of you for your energetic part in making Middlesex the superb school that it is, whether that is online or on a sunny day on the Circle, days which will surely return for our community.

Very best to you all,

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 to the right.

David J. Beare
Head of School