

Dear Verde Valley Students and Families,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the next few weeks. As you know, the Covid-19 situation is fluid and changing by the hour. I want to iterate that the health and safety of the Verde Valley School community is my top priority. I will make decisions that I believe are best for our community through this time and do so in coordination with our Board Chair, Medical Advisor, and staff.

Since my correspondence yesterday, I have received several email requests from students and parents and want to address the general questions in this email and provide direction on who to contact with any additional questions or concerns.

As I reported in yesterday's correspondence, we have extended Spring Break by one week through March 30th. Dr. Jason Wesley, our Medical Advisor, advised us that it was in the best interest of our school community to keep the campus closed. We recognize that this may be inconvenient, but we know that the safest option is for students to remain where they are. Avoiding air travel and remaining in private residences is the best way for students to stay healthy.

For international boarding students who must return to campus, there will be a bus to pick you up at the airport in Phoenix. All students will have a health screening once they arrive on campus. We will follow direction from the Yavapai County Department of Health with regard to next steps should a student return with symptoms. Jeremy Broomfield will be sending out a new travel survey in the next few days and we will plan accordingly.

Please contact John Kelley, Assistant Head of School and Dean of Students, with any student-related or health-related questions ([johnk@vvsaz.org](mailto:johnk@vvsaz.org)).

The Teaching Faculty will return to campus on March 25th to prepare for instruction beginning March 30th - either online or in-person which will be determined in the coming weeks. We are also in contact with the IB Headquarters. Our senior IB students - understandably - are nervous and worried about their ability to complete their assessments given the upcoming deadlines for the May 2020 session. Andy Gill, IB Coordinator, has requested extensions outlined on the IBO website [IBO HOME](#) in order to give seniors more time due to the extended break. In the meantime, please contact Meg Haesloop, Dean of Academics and College Counseling with any academic questions ([mhaesloop@vvsaz.org](mailto:mhaesloop@vvsaz.org)).

This is a difficult time for all of us, with things changing at a fast pace. Additional information will be provided in the coming days, including specific instructions for faculty, staff, and students.

All of us at VVS want to ensure families that all students will be cared for and supported. Please take care of your own health and know that you are all in our thoughts.

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**Paul Amadio**

*Head of School*

**Verde Valley School**