



April 27, 2020

Dear EDS Families:

The past week has been one of deep consideration and discussion. EDS has decided that it shall remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. While we know this is the safest and soundest choice for all that we serve, it is made with keen regret that the EDS traditions and exuberance of May will be missed.

In early March, the EDS Board unanimously approved an enrollment contract exception for the COVID-19 public health emergency. As you know, with the ceasing of normal school operations beyond thirty days, monthly tuition installments and scheduled extended care fees were considerably suspended for April.

Recently, the EDS Board and Holy Trinity Vestry compassionately considered how to further support its valued EDS staff. They agreed that EDS would continue paying salaried employees for the full school year term, through June, as well as pay hourly contracts as originally scheduled through May. While this is a costly decision for a small non-profit, private school; EDS firmly believes that its staff are extremely important and at the very heart of the school's mission. These staff members include the contracted teachers, Extended-Care providers, director and our maintenance/cleaning provider.

Several distance learning activities have been provided by email and on the EDS Facebook page over the past month by the director and teachers. We hope that the EDS students have enjoyed the Weekly Challenges and learning activity ideas. While this mode of instruction is different, our goal has been to deliver continuity of education as well as serve as a connection to our school community. Recent discussions amongst the EDS Board and the EDS staff have encompassed the importance of providing distance learning and how to continue supporting education at home.

The EDS teachers are working together last week, over the phone and using video communications, to develop enhanced distance learning plans. Please watch your email this week, and through May, for curriculum activities from the teachers. Make sure to also check the EDS Facebook page for special, personalized videos from us!

The board is abiding by its original exception to the tuition contract and will not bill families for April and May tuition. However, EDS is continuing to incur operating costs to pay our staff, support student education, and to insure that learning resources and the facility are maintained for when school resumes. Some of you have contacted me expressing the desire to continue providing financial support to EDS during this time by paying regularly scheduled tuition. Yes, we would welcome donations (in lieu of the current month's tuition) toward our continuing operations. EDS will graciously welcome tax-deductible donations sent by mail, made payable to EDS and noted for: "Donation."

I look forward to the blessing of your children's photographs. Please continue to share them through May as distance learning ideas are extended by the EDS staff. I will be

sending information regarding recognition of our 4K graduates soon, so stay posted!

Peace,

Suzanne Watkins, Director of Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School

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