Match High School Students & Families,

I was grateful to have the chance to speak or email with so many of you this week. Our community is made up of really remarkable people of all ages, and I enjoyed every single interaction that I was fortunate enough to have.

*Here was the prevailing theme from those conversations:* Match High School’s communication and support has been strong overall, but the amount of work has been *more* than what a significant number of students and families were anticipating or can manage.

As a result, we are committing as a team to “turning down the volume” of the remote workload for students at all grade levels. Students should be seeing no more than an average two assignments per week from each subject, and they will not be penalized for submitting work late. Additionally, we will have a Quarter 3 / Quarter 4 remote work grading plan to share as of next week’s Student & Family Update.

There is a question in today’s [survey](#) (for students and families alike) that asks for your feedback on workload so that we hear from even more students and families on this subject. We would appreciate any information that you are willing to provide as it always helps us do our jobs better.

Again, this work feels both inspiring and strange, and we are already looking forward to the days when we can see our students in-person once again.

Alexis Johnson

*Interim Principal*
Match High School

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS & LOGISTICS**

**Current School Closure End Date**

Based on the recent extension of statewide school closures, Match will remain closed through Friday, May 1, 2020. We will open on Monday, May 4, 2020. We will be sure to update you as soon as possible with any changes to this timeline.

**Good Friday & April Break Updates Forthcoming**

We will have more information soon about whether remote learning will be taking place on **Friday, April 3, 2020** (Good Friday) or throughout the week from **Monday, April 20th to Friday, April 24th** (April Break). If students are not able to participate in remote learning for religious or personal reasons at these times, please just reach out to any staff member to let us know.
Class of 2020 Senior Events

Many of our seniors have been reaching out to ask for a status check on their senior spring events (i.e. Senior Signing Day, Senior Prom, Graduation). While we can’t provide specific updates at this time, we want all of our beloved seniors and their families to know that we are already thinking and planning for different eventualities and that we will share more information as soon as we can.

Unfortunately, due to the current school closure end date, we made the difficult decision to cancel Match ALIVE internships earlier this week. Since many of our Match ALIVE partner sites did not know if they could or would be accepting guests, volunteers, or interns at that time, it would have been impossible to continue on with the program as expected. A lot of work and care went into planning Match ALIVE for this year, and we are genuinely sad that we won’t be able to see it through.

Letter from Special Education Director

Dear Parent/Guardians of Students with Disabilities:

    As you are aware, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order requiring that public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools must close through Monday, April 6, 2020. We understand that school closures will have a significant impact on our students and wanted to reach out to you regarding the supports we have in place during this closure.

    Our administrators and staff are in the process of ensuring all students are provided access to educational resources during this time, and we are hopeful this will allow us to remain connected with our students until school is back in session. We appreciate your patience as we work through these unimaginable times.

    We are working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as they are providing updated guidance for schools in accordance with local and nationwide requirements for students with disabilities. The following list includes information from DESE that may answer some questions you have right now:

    - All students, including students with disabilities, will be provided access to educational resources to continue the continuity of learning while schools are closed. We have made available on our website, at matchschool.org/covid19, some special education resources and information that might be helpful to you.

    - IEP services will not be provided during this time away from school. However, in our efforts to remain connected with students, special education staff will make efforts to be in contact with students and/or parents during this time.

      - Connection and support for learning opportunities may occur in various ways, including but not limited to: phone calls, email, resources on our school website, and/or enrichment activities to complete at home. Please note that these methods of communication are inherently less secure than in-person communications, so
please be mindful of utilizing these resources in a relatively private location or part of your home.

- Specific information for the following areas will be available on our website as well: Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling, and Health. Please stay tuned for more information as we are updating everything on a regular basis.

- IEP and evaluation timelines will be put on hold while schools are closed.

  - All new special education referrals, evaluations, extended evaluations, and re-evaluations as well as all other mandated timelines will freeze while the district is closed.

  - However, we plan to offer virtual Annual IEP Team meetings to parents/guardians who are interested in that option. This effort is not mandatory but rather an opportunity to remain connected and avoid a significant backlog of Team meetings when school is back in session. Parental consent and participation will be required.

Upon return to school, it is our plan that all students will begin accessing Individualized Education Program (IEP) services immediately and the Team process will be back in place for students and families. We do not anticipate compensatory services will be required as a result of the closure but we plan to assess the need for additional individual services if need be.

If you are interested, the following documents provide further information and guidance for schools:

- [Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Q & A](#)
- [Governor Baker's order dated March 15, 2020](#)
- [Massachusetts Department and Elementary Secondary Education Information and Resources](#)

Please continue to look for updated information from us as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and teamwork during these unimaginable times.

Stay healthy and safe,

Joey Gallagher

Director of Special Education | Match High School

**Fitness Challenge: Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization**

MCSAO Spring Fitness Challenge! Every Morning a new fitness challenge video is posted here:
The school with the most students completing the daily workout wins. If you have any questions please email Andrew.Gottlieb@matchschool.org. Go Mountain Lions.

**Appropriate Remote Learning Conduct**

Please see the attached letter regarding appropriate online conduct. Feel free to reach out to Ms. Johnson with any questions or concerns.

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*Our COVID-19 family resource webpage can be found [here](#).*

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**Alexis Johnson**

Interim Principal

Cell: (646) 915-5087

*Pronouns: She/Her/Hers*