May 1, 2020

Dear Match families,

We hope that this email finds you and your family healthy and persevering through these difficult times. We know that you are juggling many demands during this time, and we continue to appreciate your partnership with us in the education of your child. With the government’s announcement to extend the school closure through the end of the academic year, we know that our partnership with you needs to be even stronger than it has been during the past seven weeks.

When we embarked on this remote learning journey, our number one goal in our plan was to maintain the sense of community and connection we believe is at the heart of our school. This remains true. During the remainder of the school year, our staff will continue to prioritize maintaining regular communication with you and your child, as well as supporting their learning of both old and new content. With the extension of the school closure, it is very important that students engage in remote learning daily, so they are able to finish the school year strong with the skills necessary for the start of the upcoming school year. To that end, we’ve extended quarter 3 for the rest of the year (there will be no quarter 4 this school year), and you can expect teachers to require students to complete and make up all essential graded work. The completion of such work will help us better assess what content your child has mastered and in what areas we need to better support their learning. During the week of May 18th, you can expect to receive an update on the status of your child’s assignment completion from their teacher. Before then, please know you can always reach out to teachers and admin with any questions you may have regarding your child’s academic progress. Additionally, if you have a child with an IEP, please read this letter from the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education to learn more about support for your child during the school closure.

Match also remains committed to helping families find the additional resources they may need during this time. We continue to update our Match COVID-19 resource page and encourage you to check that page for resources across Greater Boston. In particular, you will find resources for acquiring additional food for your family during this time. We’d like to make families aware of the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program (P-EBT). Under the The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, because our school participates in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for meal services, ALL Match families will receive $199.50 loaded onto EBT.
cards for each Match student. This amount will be added to existing EBT cards for families who already have them, and families who do not receive EBT benefits currently will receive a card in the mail. You do not need to take any action to receive this benefit of $199.50 per student, which covers the value of March and April school meal federal reimbursement that schools typically receive when school is in session. The first round of benefits will be sent out in the coming weeks, with possible additional rounds of benefits due to the extension of the closure.

As you may or may not know, next week is Educator Appreciation Week. Without all of our dedicated staff, Match couldn’t possibly do the work of connecting with and educating your children, both inside and outside of our buildings. While we cannot recognize our amazing educators in person, we’re hoping to show them some love with virtual celebrations. Whether it’s a text message, email, or an illustrated message of gratitude, we encourage you and your child to show some love to our teachers and staff next week to celebrate Educator Appreciation Week.

We cannot thank you enough for all you’ve been doing at home to support your child’s learning. We know many of you are wearing so many hats because of this school closure. We see you and appreciate all of your efforts to make remote learning successful within our community. As we plan for remote learning to extend through the remainder of the school year, we need your feedback so that we’re able to strengthen our programming for your child. We’re asking each household to complete this [survey](#) to help us learn what’s working and what we can improve. Please complete the [survey](#) by Friday May 8th. If you have multiple children at Match, you only need to complete the survey once.

We’re in this together. And we will rise from this challenging time together. While our buildings are closed and we are practicing physical distancing, we are still connected. Our school is not defined by the walls of a building, but rather by the strength and heart of our community. It is that powerful combination of strength and love that allows us to thrive in the face of difficulty and uncertainty, and to have hope for what’s to come. We encourage you and your child to show that love to our teachers and staff next week as we celebrate Educator Appreciation Week, remotely.

Stay healthy and well,

Nnenna Ude
Executive Director