March 20, 2020

Good Evening SEED Maryland Families,

Last week, Maryland State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon directed that all Maryland schools close in response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, SEED Maryland closed and will remain closed until through Saturday, March 28th. We have finished one week of students being home safe with families and practicing social distancing. We hope you are healthy and washing your hands. Please continue to refer to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for all up-to-date information about this global pandemic. While students have been home, the SEED Maryland Leadership Team has been working on a plan for a possible shift to virtual learning. Students are encouraged to stay engaged using the links provided below. As Teachers and SL Counselors wrap up their google classrooms, your student will receive instructions next week. The Co-Heads of School are meeting regularly with Dr. Salmon and receiving guidance about the next steps. We will update the SEED Community once we know the way forward for Maryland schools.

Below you will find resources for your family during this time. If you have a general inquiry, the main school line (410-843-9477) will be answered Monday, March 23rd through Friday, March 27th from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm and you also have the option to email: headofschool@seedschoolmd.org. We will respond to all parent/guardian questions and we will share the questions/responses with the parent community in our next parent update.

Family & Community Engagement Office

Maryland State-Wide Meal Program

New Phone Number? Change of Address?
Please select this link and complete the information blocks:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J6BCDYP

Math & Reading Packets for Middle School Students (Grades 6th-8th)
Available on our website under “Parent Resources”

Need your student’s “I-Ready” login information?
Please email ThomasF@seedschoolmd.org with the student name and I-Ready in the subject line.
**Story Time**
Stay tuned to Online StoryTime to begin on Monday for kids of ALL ages!
https://www.protopage.com/rinehart#Story_Time- All_Ages

**General Inquiries**
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**Student Support Services**
Here is a list of resources for these challenging times. Please reach out to Student Support with any concerns (StudentSupport@seedschoolmd.org). We are here to support the SEED Community!

**Things you can do to support yourself**
- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and drugs. See below for free exercise videos!!
  - https://www.nbcnews.com/better/lifestyle/gym-closed-here-are-some-free-or-discounted-workouts-do-ncna1159931
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling, by phone or video chat app (FaceTime, Skype, etc.).

**Tips for dealing with anxiety**

**Financial/Economic Resources**
1. Open Society Institute’s Master List of Resources (In Maryland and National): Financial, Educational, and Entertainment
2. https://www.osibaltimore.org/2020/03/covid-19-information-and-resources/?mc_cid=5a7d11a213&mc_eid=dfbb1a083b
3. First Call for Help Maryland: 211md.org Or Dial 211 from any phone (24-hour hotline)
4. The United Way of Central Maryland’s COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund: A fund set up to help with rent, food, and bills.
   https://www.uwcm.org/main/

**Entertainment Resources**
1. 20 virtual “trips” to take with your kids or on your own (Art museums, zoos, activities) https://adventuresinfamilyhood.com/20-virtual-field-trips-to-take-with-your-kids.html
2. Instagram: @busytoddler (Great ideas for easy activities to do with small children at home)
3. 100 things to do while stuck inside: https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/health-wellness/2020/03/16/coronavirus-quarantine-100-things-do-while-trapped-inside/5054632002/
4. Humor: @workfromhomememes

Information about the work of our SEED Maryland Leadership and Staff with efforts to provide an educational continuum of instruction and social-emotional learning.

Since March 6th, the SEED Leadership Team and Staff have been working to create a platform for virtual learning which would provide a continuum of instruction for students. Below is a summary of the projects begun at that time. All of these tasks are underway and some have been completed.

- Bi-weekly meetings with county State Superintendents (Co-Heads) and MD State Superintendent
- IT reviewed the inventory of devices and determined a device is available for all staff and students to use if online learning is necessary
- Bi-weekly meetings with SEED Foundation and SEED Heads of Schools (DC, MD & Miami)
- Weekly email (every Friday) to parents included information about sites where students can obtain free meals, mental health, and other resources- beginning - 3/20/20
- Reading and Math enrichment packets for middle school students were sent via email on Friday, March 13th
- Assignments for Upper School students have been sent via google classrooms, etc.
- SPED, Student Life and Mr. Trayvon Harris surveyed families about technology needs.
- Virtual Learning platforms identified
- Draft of Online Learning Plan submitted
- Google Classrooms set up US/MS teachers
- SL staff creating google classrooms and Weebly pages to continue character education and life skills lessons
- Draft of online learning expectations for all staff
- Process for supporting McKinney Vento (homeless) students
- Facilities cleaned and sanitized dorms and buses. Modell Academic Center to be completed by 3/28/28
This is a reminder that the campus will close Saturday, March 21st until Saturday, March 28th. Access to the Modell Academic Center and the Dormitories will be restricted. If the temporary school closure ends as scheduled on March 27th, the campus will reopen on the 29th. If the school closure is extended beyond that date, a schedule will be created to allow access for students and staff to any personal items that were left on campus. Thank you for your understanding and support during this time.

Be well,

Erika & Tiffany

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