March 10, 2020

Dear UCS Parents/Guardians,

With news of the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), we would like to take a moment to update you on our response to the virus and what we are doing to protect our kids during this time. Your children and their safety are our primary concern. At this point, we have not received local or state-level instruction that schools need to close, but are developing plans to ensure continuity of education in the event that we are forced to do so.

What proactive measures is UCS taking?

Cleaning
Our cleaning team is an internal team of UCS employees who clean our building each night Monday through Friday, and Sunday after weekend events. This process includes but is not limited to washing the floors of our hallways, our student commons, and our kitchen; sanitizing bathrooms with bleach; and sanitizing high-use areas prone to high rates of germs (door handles, push bars, lockers, and the frequently touched walls) with Clorox disinfectant. With the rise of illness, we are also sanitizing door handles and push bars throughout the school day.

Daily, our teachers are sanitizing high use items within their classroom including phones and hard surfaces (desks, tables). Our staff also has access to Lysol products for disinfecting all staff offices. In addition, we completely sanitize all classrooms each month.

However, while we work to provide a clean and safe environment, our best solution for preventing the spread of Coronavirus continues to be hand-washing and building our immune system through adequate sleep and nutrition.

Additional Steps
To minimize risk to students, staff, and families relating to the spread of COVID-19:

- We are prioritizing hand washing and the use of Purell during the school day.
- We have invested in a Clorox 360 sanitizing machine, and we expect to receive and implement it in early April to speed up and further improve our classroom sanitization. This will also allow us to include offices and playground sanitizing into our cleaning operations moving forward.
- We have temporarily canceled all school field trips and off-site clubs/academies until after Spring Break to limit travel and exposure.
- Teachers are developing home-based learning lessons and distance learning options.

What can families do to prepare?

- Moving forward, please think about childcare options for your family should schools in Cleveland be told to close.
Please think about your internet capability at home and plan for your child to use a tablet, laptop, desktop computer, or smartphone for online learning if the school is closed.

**What do the Ohio Department of Health and CDC recommend?**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Stay home when you are sick. Please be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication including Tylenol) before returning to school, or when other symptoms are apparent.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay informed on emerging news and recommendations by visiting:

We will continue to inform you as we learn new information about this evolving situation. Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is our priority.

Sincerely,

Tom Gill,
President