

# THE PARK SCHOOL *of* BALTIMORE

## COVID-19 Response — Check-In from The Head of School

Park Families,

Last week, I shared news that a community member was being tested for COVID-19. Just this morning, I was informed that the test result came back *negative*. I want to express gratitude to the entire Park community for the kindness and concern that has been expressed throughout this period, and the adaptability that has been in evidence. Further, I am grateful to the healthcare professionals that were so responsive, helpful, and supportive to our community member and to the community at large.

*The other purpose of this note today is to simply acknowledge that much has transpired over the course of the last week — and it is important for you to know that you and your families are very much in my thoughts.*

The academic leadership team is hard at work planning for what a return to school will look like under these new and challenging circumstances. Together with the faculty, we are imagining the ways we can ensure that our students stay connected to us and to one another; that they establish school routines that help them stay deeply engaged in meaningful work; and that we guide them, and you, through a new (albeit temporary) way of deep learning in these changing days. We will take advantage of existing technology platforms (e.g. email and Veracross; Zoom and Google); we'll benefit from the creativity and the ingenuity of our teaching professionals, who know your children so well; and our students, undoubtedly, will make discoveries and share their ideas and methods with their peers and with their teachers. While we will be without access to our beautiful facility on Old Court Road, we will have the most essential ingredients of what makes Park, *Park* — its people; our commitment to one another as a community, and perspective that we are part of a greater world.

Please expect to hear from me next Tuesday (March 24) with details about how we will launch school on Wednesday, March 25. At this time, it is abundantly clear that we should plan for an extended period of distance learning, and we'll follow the guidance of health officials in determining how extensive that period will be.

As we all continue to process massive amounts of information and come to appreciate more fully the magnitude of the situations we face in so many aspects of our lives, I want to thank you for your efforts to keep your loved ones safe and also to support larger efforts to safeguard those most at risk from this virus.

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**Please practice social distancing, as difficult as it may be.** Health officials have made it abundantly clear that taking major steps like closing schools will not be effective unless they are accompanied by social distancing strategies. We ask that you and your children restrict in-person social interactions. If our students are out and about, spending time at various households and with various friend groups, the virus is more likely to continue its spread — impacting the vulnerable, and contributing to overwhelming the healthcare system. I believe there is a lesson for our children in understanding how and why we are taking such drastic actions not simply for ourselves, but for the larger population. If there were ever a moment for us to appreciate most fully that we truly are interconnected, surely this is it.

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And as we think about how we can do more to help those most in need during these challenging times, I want to share a list of volunteer opportunities provided to me by one of our trustees. While practicing effective social distancing, we can help those with compromised immune systems who are most at risk and who might benefit from assistance in the coming days and weeks. [This link](#) can connect you to neighborhood volunteer sites across Baltimore City and can also help you begin a similar effort wherever you may live. On our COVID-19 Response [web page](#), we have also provided a link to one of the many emergency food resources in the area.

Thank you for all that you are doing to contribute to the health and well-being of the community. I will be in touch again soon.

Sincerely,

*Dan Paradis*  
*Head of School*

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Please send questions or concerns to [covidresponseteam@parkschool.net](mailto:covidresponseteam@parkschool.net). Our response team continues to check this account regularly.