



ROYCEMORE

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100 YEARS Proud history
Inspired future

March 20, 2020

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Dear Roycemore Families,

As I write this, your children should have completed day #4 of remote learning. I have heard so much positive feedback about our teachers from you and how impressed you have been with what they have done for your children. Clearly, we have all had to flex our flexible muscles these last couple of weeks as we have had to pivot on numerous occasions, re-thinking our plans and priorities. I am truly grateful and humbled by the sense of community that has been shown during this time. It is remarkable and is added confirmation of the power of our Roycemore Community-- our Griffinity!!

As we embark upon week #2, we'll likely see the newness of this wear off a bit and if our nerves weren't tested before, they will likely be tested a little more. To help us continue to embrace our joy, spread love, and shower Griffinity among us, I have named our early childhood aide, Justin Bailey as our Chief Griffinity Officer! He is excited to be working with Elizabeth Latimer, our Director of Enrollment, Marketing and Communications to support our sense of community during what could be a very isolating time. Justin and Liz will be looking for your help to share what is happening with your children, their friends and your family. A special page on our website is being developed where daily videos will be posted, a Griffin Gratitude wall will be displayed, and other fun things to share. Stay tuned for the launch of this page early next week!

Earlier this week CPS announced that school won't resume for them until April 21. While it is likely that Roycemore will follow this guideline set by CPS, given the changing environment and new mandates from Governor Pritzker to "stay at home" until April 7th, we will wait to make a further determination on the resumption of in person classes until our spring break.

While our physical campus is closed, learning continues! With that in mind, I would like to offer a few guidelines and updates that are directives from the Illinois State Board of Education that are for both public and private schools.

First, the school days through the end of this month have been deemed “Act of God” days, meaning that the state has declared that these days do not need to be made up at the end of the year. We are asking, however, that parents of early childhood and lower school students, and students in middle and upper school report their attendance through the remote learning site on a daily basis so that we can continue to support the growth and learning of each student and reach out to support students. Teachers are getting used to how much work to assign. Some students want more, some have indicated it is just right, and others have felt overworked. Please bear with us as we all collectively adjust to this and take advantage of the tools like Google Meet to connect with teachers remotely. Students should stay connected with their advisors as well. You can be sure, however, that Roycemore teachers will be checking in with you and while they will not deduct from students’ grades during these two weeks, they want to ensure students are mastering key concepts that they need to master before the end of this year so that they are more than ready for the next academic level challenges ahead of them.

Finally, I want to again express my appreciation to all of you for the tremendous partnership you have demonstrated with the school and your school’s teachers during this unprecedented time. We WILL get through this and I believe our community and our program will become even stronger as a result.

Take good care of each other!!

Adrienne Finley Odell

Head of School