



April 6, 2020

Dear LACS Community,

As we enter into the second week of distance learning, I wanted to thank you for the photos, words of encouragement, and helpful feedback. Your positive responses are affirming the truly amazing work our Junior Kindergarten through ninth grade faculty are doing to translate their teaching expertise into effective distance learning. We appreciate you as well for doing your best to carve out space and time in your work and home life to support your children's learning.

We are working to get it right with the appropriate workload for synchronous versus asynchronous time with students, defining expectations for learning, and balancing work time, down time, playtime as well as family time. For consistency across schools and grade levels, we are asking teachers to consider a few **key principles** as they plan their remote lessons using their professional judgment and knowledge of their students to drive their decisions.

Teachers will:

- **Focus on core skills, not simply content coverage.** This means that while we are attempting to move students along with curriculum goals; we know that nothing fully replaces what is done in the classroom.
- **Present lessons in a way that allows students access throughout the day.** For families, this means students can watch recorded lessons or complete assignments when it is most convenient for them and their parents. Remote learning may be more effective when students participate live with their teacher, but we know it may not be possible for every student to tune in on any given day or time. Do what works best for your family.
- **Provide clear directions.** This is something we are learning day by day as we receive feedback from students and parents. If you have questions, use the teacher's school email. Do not panic if you do not receive an immediate answer; due dates are flexible.
- **Assign only "classwork" with no additional traditional "homework".** We know students take varying amounts of time to complete assignments, be it in

class or at home. Teachers will adjust the quantity and type of work they are assigning as they assess student work and progress. Flexibility along with compassion for everyone's life situation is key for us. While we do need your help to provide encouragement and an environment conducive to learning in your home, we do not expect you to teach the course or curriculum.

- **Use live chats or recorded lessons when appropriate.** If students are unable to attend the live sessions, they can watch the recorded session when it is more convenient for the family.
- **Teach and communicate with compassion and flexibility.** This is perhaps most important as we know significant physical, emotional, and financial strain are new realities for our families.

The reality is that we cannot change the way things are right now. We have little control over how long we will be sheltering-in-place or how the coronavirus will affect us long term. We can be angry and place blame, or we can redirect these feelings towards something more positive to find and create meaning behind the chaos.

The world is greatly impacted with uncertainty. Yes, we have the best researchers, scientists, and medical technology in the world, but more importantly, we have our Lord Jesus Christ who is with us every step of the way. His word is everlasting and can transform us and our circumstances.

The Word of God tells us that we can do "all things" through Christ who gives us His strength (Philippians 4:13). His strength empowers us to overcome all the situations and circumstances that we may face upon this earth—all in the Name of Jesus!

The opposite of faith and peace is fear, and the Word of God tells us that there is no fear in the love God brings us through Christ because "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). That love and the peace that accompanies it, "surpasses all understanding" and "will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

Therefore, we can choose to make a conscious choice to stop resisting the way things are and accept them completely and unconditionally. It does not mean we have to like or approve of these circumstances, but acknowledge the situation in order to reduce the suffering caused by the futility of trying to change something that is out of our control.

Perhaps more importantly than ever, we need to accept that things are a certain way. We can think about how to regulate and even change our emotions or behaviors to overcome challenges, enhance our situation, and improve our lives.

This acceptance does not mean that our anxious thoughts will dissipate for good. They will percolate up with every news story, cough, and sibling disagreement. This acceptance is a conscious choice that we need to make multiple times a day or in some cases, hourly.

Let us remember to take each day at a time with the Lord carving our path before us. We should choose to be present and in the moment. Put our thoughts and actions toward focusing on the people and places around us. Practice thankfulness for our families, friends, colleagues, and the LACS family. We should look for the many blessings God gives each of us. Let us focus our thoughts with acceptance, grace, and peace knowing that there will be an end to this, and there will be new beautiful beginnings. Those beginnings can start now by a conscious choice, regardless of the circumstances.

At LACS and BCC, we care about you and your family. We understand and we are right alongside you. Just as we believe in the promise and potential of every child, we believe in the capacity and the inner strength of every parent. You are amazing and doing an excellent job.

LACS stands strong for you and your family. We are moving forward with plans for the future. We love you and are praying for you all. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Warm regards,

Cathy Robinson
Head of Schools