

Dear CGMS Community,

As you are well aware by now, Denver Public Schools along with most of the local public school districts have decided to extend Spring Break in the light of COVID-19, in hopes of decreasing the rapidity of viral spread and in the interest of protecting the community. After much thought and consideration, we have decided to follow their lead. We believe that such closures can stem the spread of this virus. It is not a decision that we take lightly.

We care deeply about our families and our larger community. We believe it is our responsibility to take a proactive stance and be leaders in this area. We want to protect the health of our families and teachers and to be an active participant in helping our health system contain the spread of this virus. We are heeding guidance from the CDC on social distancing, CDPHE, and the medical community spokespeople who express strong concern about ongoing spread of the COVID-19 virus and overwhelming the healthcare system.

For those reasons, **we will be closed starting Monday, March 16 through Monday, April 6. The current plan is for teachers to return to work in the classrooms on April 6, and students to return on Tuesday, April 7.** We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak in Denver, and keep you apprised of any information we are privy to as the days pass. We currently do NOT have any reported cases of COVID-19 in the CGMS community. This is fully a preventative and proactive measure.

In light of this closure, all community events planned during this period will be canceled. This includes the Parent's Night Out Event that was scheduled to take place on Friday, March 20th and the Upstairs Parent Organizing Help scheduled for Monday, March 23rd and Wednesday, March 25th. We will reschedule these events once we are back in action.

During this extended break, we will meet as a staff and discuss ways to support the community remotely. While online learning is not appropriate for this age group, we are certainly full of ideas that you can do at home, to support learning your child would be doing here at school. Be on the lookout for some informative and educational emails headed your way in the near future!

We are a community and understand the economic burden of this situation. March tuition was already billed and a pro-rated amount will not be refunded. Our operating costs are annual operating costs, and we will continue to support our educators and staff and pay salaries through this closure. It is our current expectation that we will have no change to student contact days in the month of April, and as of now, we are planning to bill April tuition as planned. Of course, if this should change the board will discuss this matter and we will keep you updated.

We know this virus is affecting many businesses and families. If there is a way we can

support you please reach out. We know this takes a mental health toll on families as well as a physical one. Should your family be experiencing financial hardship (job loss, decreased income, etc.) as a result of COVID-19 please do not hesitate to reach out to Jamie or Bekke. We have tuition assistance funds available to support our families.

These are strange, anxiety-causing times. Here are a couple of articles that I found, that might be useful for all of us adults who are trying to make sense of things:

7 Science-Based Strategies to Cope with Coronavirus

Anxiety: <https://theconversation.com/7-science-based-strategies-to-cope-with-coronavirus-anxiety-133207?fbclid=IwAR0ZJZujLbUZr9rADHw5D1gRzvw9FAMKJbIPnlcwdAR3g7xEtbmdBMrkm18>

Are You Scared? What Wise Words Can We Offer During These Times of Great Uncertainty: [https://thehf.org/founders\\_blog/are-you-scared/](https://thehf.org/founders_blog/are-you-scared/)

We know this has been a difficult couple of weeks, and we want to support the children and families in our community however we can. We are a strong community filled with thoughtful people who are eager to connect, support, and care for one another. Together we will get through these uncertain times. Please do not hesitate to reach out. While the school will be closed, we will continue to check our phone messages regularly. We will continue to be available via email as well. Stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you in April.

Warmly,  
Bekke Howell  
Head of School