

Dear TLS Families,

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

As you are likely aware the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently gave a press conference updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. In addition, local decisions to close college campuses and the possible extension of school breaks are in the news. We are monitoring the rapidly changing status of news regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As a recognized non-public school, we are required to take our guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Vermilion County Health Department.

As the CDC recently emphasized, there is **not** currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the US is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions. In the meantime, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow basic health best practices:

- Enforcing great hygiene, such as washing hands thoroughly and covering up coughs/sneezes.
- Asking all faculty, staff, and students who are feeling ill to stay home until they recover. Good hygiene and handwashing, healthy eating, and avoidance of large crowds/unhealthy places are key to staying healthy – for this and any virus.
- Asking the janitor and staff members to intentionally strive to disinfect surfaces daily.

Our school is preparing to alter our procedures and planning should the situation change [including strategies like eLearning in grades 3-8]. Our Chromebooks and Google platforms are already a part of our school routine. At this time, we do not have plans to close school or to extend the spring break. It is important to note, there are currently **no** confirmed cases of COVID-19 in central or downstate Illinois. Our extra-curricular athletic season is complete and no field trips are planned until May. Any future gatherings will be assessed at the appropriate times.

We will communicate any changes when the time is appropriate. It is also important to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or the Vermilion County Health Department should be followed.

Please continue to look for further communications as the situation evolves.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. Psalm 91:1-3

Sincerely,

Kim Wright