

Coronavirus Message #8


Dear SRV Community,


As we enter into week three of the mandated school closing, I wanted to reach out with another message and an update about cybersecurity and emotional support. I hope that you are all managing as best you can under these unprecedented circumstances.

What we Know


There has been no change in the government mandate as it relates to school closure and Pennsylvanians continue to be under a stay-at-home order. Guidelines now include the wearing of home-made masks. Early results in some areas of the country seem to indicate that there may be a flattening of the curve.

What the School is Doing

 has grown in its capacities over the past two weeks. This intentional progression has resulted in greater safety for students, stronger mastery by users, and increased engagement as the novelty of online learning wears off.

 has continued through the School's scheduled spring break. The priority for this step was to maintain connections between students and teachers. Because of the vast array of learners at SRV and the many different circumstances at home, teachers are continuing to tailor their Google Classrooms this week to meet the unique needs of learners and families under their care.

Cyber Security

As we build  into an even more robust tool, the School has been paying particular attention to the issue of cyber-security and has not adopted any platforms without properly vetting them, evaluating existing security measures, choosing packages that provide the greatest protection, and training teachers in their use.

There are many cyber-security features in Google Suites and Zoom. Teachers have reviewed both Google Suites and Zoom cyber-safety white pages, are adhering to those recommendations for maintaining a safe and secure virtual meeting environment, and are implementing cyber-safety strategies in their virtual classrooms.

Google Suites has a strong reputation for cyber safety. It's a bit dense but if you want to be reassured, you can read the following digital white paper: [Google Cloud Security and Compliance](#)

The School purchased the Zoom for Education package and teachers are using school-based hosting accounts rather than their own personal accounts. This, by virtue of the administrative controls, provides greater cyber-safety. For example, administrators can set the default sharing to "host-only" at the school-account

level. This setting gives hosts the sole permission to share content within their meetings by default. In addition, teachers are required to complete the online training module and reviewed the cyber safety materials, in order to use Zoom for virtual meetings with students.

The topic of Zoom bombing has come up a lot. Teachers reviewed [How to Keep Uninvited Guests Out of Your Zoom Event](#) and are following its guidelines and using the recommended strategies.

COVID-19 website page

The SRV website now includes a page with a message from me and with a collection of the updates that have been sent to the community.

What Students and Families Can Do

Parents can help to minimize the emotional impact of this crisis on children by continuing to share with teachers and the SRV Learning Support Team information about how you are managing at home. Any family can reach out to Susie Metrick, School Psychologist, at sumetrick@gmail.com if you need any helpful advice for your children, family, or yourself as you manage these stressors.

In addition, The Department of Human Services (DHS) has launched a statewide Support & Referral Helpline staffed by skilled and compassionate caseworkers who will be available 24/7 to counsel residents struggling with anxiety and other challenging emotions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The toll-free, around-the-clock support line is 1-855-284-2494. More information can be found here: [Gov. Wolf: Support & Referral Helpline Created for Pennsylvanians in Need of Behavioral Health Resources and Referrals During COVID-19 Public Health Crisis](#)

What to Expect from Here

In the hopes that we will be able to return to campus for even a brief period of time, the School is determining how to make that a safe transition. This includes determining which health screenings and daily monitoring will be needed, what additional personnel and supplies might be required, and what criteria for decision-making might be determined.

I know that it can be particularly difficult to stay positive during times like these. I am the eternal optimist and even I have felt defeated at times. But I write to you today with an increasingly optimistic view of the situation and a desire for us to focus on the blessings that we do have. I am thankful to be able to work with children for one thing. Under usual circumstances, if I ever feel overwhelmed or frustrated, all I ever need to do is to leave my office and go outside, where I find laughing children running by me on their way to some great adventure. Some fresh air and a conversation with one or two students usually does the trick. It is also a boon to my efforts to know that the work that I do is not about me. It's about kids. There is freedom in that responsibility that allows me to stay focused on what is

important. These days, I make the time to enjoy my own children and to enjoy SRV children, even if virtually for the moment.

I am also encouraged by your positivity. Edith Wharton wrote, "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it" There is a brilliance in each and every one of you that is waiting to shine on all of us. If you have been hiding it away, now is the time to show it, and if you see it in someone else, put the spotlight on that person.

Take Care,

Rod Stanton
Head of School
The School in Rose Valley