



March 17, 2020

Dear Rivermont Community,

I'm writing today to announce the plan to shift instruction and learning online in the coming weeks. The first thing I'd like to say is that Rivermont is very well-positioned to be proactive and respond quickly, as this pandemic evolves. Many of our families, faculty, staff, and students are on edge. While I recognize that the uncertainty of this situation exacerbates those anxieties, I want to assure you that my administrative team and I remain alert and proactively engaged behind the scenes. While we do not yet have all the details of our plan, we do have a robust process through which we will find and communicate them. Here are the key points:

1. Rivermont Collegiate will remain closed for an additional week of Spring Break. The plan is to resume instruction and begin distance learning on April 6th. We are communicating this plan now, so families will have a week and a half to make arrangements for childcare in the event they are required to work.
2. Our administrators will lead teachers on a volunteer basis in reviewing available technological and curricular resources between March 17th and March 30th. These preparations will be online or in small groups with social distancing protocols in place.
3. During the week of March 30th through April, 3rd all faculty will join in preparing to shift our instruction online. These preparations will be online or in small groups with social distancing protocols in place.
4. Rivermont Collegiate already has a structure through which our teachers collaboratively review the literature on best practices, seek resources, and make curricular decisions that are developmentally appropriate for groups within our student body. These groups, called Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), have been operating together for two years. Rivermont divides its PLCs into the following collaborative groups: PS-JK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. Rivermont's academic administration will facilitate meetings and coordinate these groups as they select curriculum and organize lessons/activities.
5. We will ask that our student life and auxiliary instruction teams create opportunities for online enrichment activities. Examples might include online group gaming, online art lessons, story time varied by age group, tutoring sessions, etc.
6. Our team will implement distance learning and put every effort into making it the best experience possible. Our intention, however, is to resume class as usual as early as possible. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume classes on campus before the end of the school year. Rivermont's small class sizes and intimate setting give us an advantage as we seek to resume in-person classes.

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Remote learning will never be as effective as in-person learning. Human brains are wired for social interactions, and our neurons crave the close relationships and camaraderie we find within Rivermont's community. These will be trying times for students, parents, and teachers alike. Our goal is to make the most of this challenging situation.

We recognize this will create additional complications for our families. Rivermont's parent population and our extended family consist of unusually high numbers of medical professionals, community leaders, and people who play a role in maintaining critical infrastructure. We apologize for the disruption that this decision causes and, again, our goal is to resume classes as usual as soon as it is safe.

Rivermont is strong. Rivermont is nimble. Rivermont is family — and we will work to protect our family (and beyond) now. So be safe, follow best practices as prescribed by the CDC, and stay tuned. We will keep you updated as things come together.

Yours in service,

Sincerely,
Max

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Roach".

C. Max Roach
Headmaster

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