

March 15, 2020

Dear RMS Families,

Today, Governor Walz announced a temporary closure of Minnesota K-12 schools to students in order for districts to plan for the COVID-19 pandemic. We do not know what to expect as this is a very fluid situation but it seems we must prepare for longer-term ramifications. Please be assured that RMS Administration and the Board of Directors are continuing to work diligently to plan for the future including the financial implications this may have on our small, nonprofit school.

We are extremely relieved to confirm that the results for the adults in our community that were tested for COVID-19 all came back negative. And, there have been no new reports from anyone else within the RMS community. For this we are grateful.

We have been very impressed at the collective effort our staff has made to implement distance learning for elementary and above programs which will begin immediately. Through the use of technology, our guides will be able to facilitate learning by keeping the students connected and focused on the curriculum and other learning opportunities from home.

At this time, our greatest challenge may be how to support families with young children who are unable to take advantage of the same remote programming and who are also burdened by finding care for their child(ren). We are looking into options to determine how we can best support these families, especially those with employees that are vital to our healthcare system. **Please don't hesitate to email the board at [rms-board@rmschool.org](mailto:rms-board@rmschool.org) if you need immediate help with childcare or if you have ideas or creative solutions to help out the families of our youngest children.**

For anyone concerned about the loss of time at school, please remember that children do not need a classroom or a teacher to facilitate learning. They are naturally curious and should be given opportunities for practical life and learning that is age-appropriate. Most importantly, they need love, nurture and safety to grow and we know that our families are able to provide all of these things which brings us great comfort during this challenging time.

In times of uncertainty, our connection with others and the communities in which we live are our greatest assets. While social distancing prevents us from coming together in person, we can still find ways to collaboratively support each other and uphold our values as a community.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Deborah Summerson, Interim Head of School

Kellie Mueller, Board President