



Matthews Hall

Established 1918

Friday, April 3, 2020

Dear Parents:

As we respond to the emerging needs of our students during our extended COVID-19 closure, we are very much aware that you and your children are likely struggling with the lack of structure and normality and its impact on your daily lives – to say nothing of the public health risks facing our communities. We share your concern and we are feeling it, too.

Our teachers and administration have been working hard to mobilize effective teaching and learning resources that can be adapted for distance-learning during this closure. It is not an exact science, but we have a responsive and accessible team with the knowledge and skills to make it happen. We will undoubtedly encounter some wrinkles and bumps along the way, but we are fully committed to working through them with your help, as we support your child throughout the coming weeks.

Attached you will find an outline of our **Matthews Hall Learning at Home** program, which will be implemented with increasing structure over the coming days and weeks. Please review it to better understand the philosophy, pedagogy, and learning priorities that our teachers will be addressing.

We fully appreciate that each family and each child has different needs. Some will welcome the structure and opportunity for online and remote learning activities and others may find them stressful, confusing, and overwhelming. Our teachers are here to help and will prioritize flexibility, empathy, creativity, and experimentation, as we continue to work through this together.

No student will be penalized for difficulties experienced while engaging with our Learning at Home program. We recognize that there may be a range of impediments in trying to manage such online work for some children.

The reality is that crises upend the best laid plans for work, families, and our day-to-day lives. In the midst of this situation, we may even need to retool our priorities, strategies, and approaches.

However, the one priority we can all get behind is that our students – *and especially the youngest ones* – need to know that *we've got this*. And that things will eventually return to normal. And that in the midst of all of this, our humanity is the most important thing.

To those members of our Matthews Hall community working in the health care sector and in other essential services, we thank you for your commitment, dedication, and care.

We hope to see everyone soon!

Sincerely,

Ric Anderson
Head of School