



# Wissahickon

CHARTER SCHOOL

March 20, 2020

Dear families,

I continue to think of you all every day and am hoping that everyone is taking steps to stay physically and mentally healthy. I'm sharing a few updates and resources today but I also wanted to send a little grace your way during this hard time. While so much is out of our control, focus on what you and your children can control. Model a calm outlook. Make hand washing fun (and longer) by singing (I like Prince). Build a fort. Read some books. Cook a family favorite. Binge watch something great. Look for signs that your child is scared and listen to their worries (see resources below). Shield them from news which can be overwhelming. It's not going to be perfect. Someone in my home may or may not have eaten a jumbo sized box of Cheezits yesterday. Just show up and do your best every day and cut yourself (and your kids) some slack.

Some updates and resources:

- I'm watchful for an announcement about continued school closures. I'm not sure if we'll get word from a local, state, or federal voice about the status of school. If an announcement doesn't seem to be coming as we end spring break, I will make a decision about Wissahickon's status and communicate it to you.
- Because we are all one community, I want you to know that we have a commitment to employ and pay all of our staff during this closure as long as schools are receiving the usual funding.
- All announcements and resources can be found on our website: <http://wissahickoncharter.org/covid-19-updates>.
- Due to guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the learning packet we provided is not mandatory and will not count towards your child's grade. I still recommend completing it in order to continue your child's learning at home. For students who receive learning support, please reach out to your child's Learning Specialist with any questions or concerns about the work.
- PSSAs, our state assessment for students in third through eighth grades have been cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Your child has, or will soon have, an account with Dreambox, an adaptive online K-8 Math program. I'm attaching a parent flyer that can help you to learn more about this program. There are daily webinars available that are detailed on the flyer.

- Internet Essentials from Comcast is now offering two free months of services. See the attached flyer for more information. Here is the link for Comcast Essentials application: <https://apply.internetessentials.com/>
- Resources for Talking About COVID-19 with Children

[What Kids want to Know: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#)

(NPR)

[PBS Kids guide for talking younger kids about the coronavirus](#)

Brain POP on the new coronavirus

[Responding to Children's Emotional Needs During Times of Crisis](#)

(American Academy of Pediatrics)

Take good care.

Much love,

Kristi

Kristi Littell, CEO