



TCPS Remote Learning

May 19, 2020

Ten weeks ago, we made the decision to close our campus and quickly move to remote learning for the health and safety of our students, families and staff. Taking a little bit of time to reflect, there has been so much accomplished in such a short period of time. Our last day on campus was Friday, March 13 and after spending those next two days (Monday and Tuesday) preparing for the monumental shift to remote learning, we started to provide academic instruction on Wednesday, March 18.

We spent that first week, teaching in an asynchronous format, which allowed our families and students to choose what time of day they wanted to complete the school work given. This flexibility allowed our families and staff to continue to make the preparations that were needed to make such an incredible change in such a short period of time. After that first week of our remote learning plan, we quickly transitioned to structured synchronous classes starting on March 26. We take great pride in being one of the first schools to transition to live teaching. Live classes facilitated more student-to-student and student-to-teacher interactivity and brought along the much-welcomed normalcy of being able to see classmates and friends altogether “in-person”. We have continued to refine and make adjustments to our synchronous classes to make them as successful and effective as possible and I know that everyone in our school community feels a sense of pride and accomplishment in having the continuation of learning carry on as a clear priority.

In light of such an abrupt and significant change to our normal mode of schooling, the transition to be able to maintain continuity of learning has required a herculean effort. This was only made possible through the incredible dedication, support, and flexibility that you have provided to your child, our community, and our staff. We are very proud to have been able to continue teaching and learning in the TCPS way.

Borrowing a quote that is very timely, Jal Mehta, Harvard professor and author, was asked about the challenge that families face during this pandemic. *“This is a tough time for everyone. Do what works for you. If you need to work and have them watch Frozen 2 for the thousandth time, so be it. If it stresses you out to have a schedule, don’t have one. Ultimately, you want them to look back at this period and see it as a chance to spend some happy time with you and to do some learning that they could not have done in school.”*

Balance is an important key in what we believe at TCPS, an important component of positive well-being, and happiness. Balance may seem near impossible with being thrust into taking on the role of a teacher’s aide, recess & lunch duty supervisor, and playmate, on top of what you already normally are responsible for. As a school, we fully support anything you need to do that works for you and your family. Please let us know how we can help in any way.

Will my child be ready for the next grade?

I understand if this is a question that you may have, given the unique circumstances. Within the remote learning environment, our teachers are focusing more heavily on the core components of our curriculum and we are very confident that our students will be ready for the next grade level. They are continuing



to learn, grow, and develop within this new setting. The backbone of our philosophy centers on the advantages that truly small classes offer. It allows our teachers to know where each of his or her students are academically and emotionally, which facilitates more successful individual growth and learning. We spend a portion of every fall reviewing and assessing our students to provide more effective and personalized instruction that helps guide us throughout the year. Because of the routine and frequent communication that is present between our teachers, from grade level to grade level, we have a firm understanding of what is necessary to be prepared for the next grade level at TCPS. If a more in-depth review period is necessary in the fall, that is something we can and will accommodate. With that being said, we are very excited to see the continued learning and growth your children will undertake the rest of the semester.

Our dedicated staff continues to work incredibly hard and their commitment has been such an important component in the success of our mission of educating your children. The staff have continued to refine their synchronous teaching methodology while also providing asynchronous work to further extend learning. All of our teachers are available to provide extra help, support, or to answer any questions you or your student may have. Please continue to reach out if you need anything from our staff. One of the key advantages of our small class sizes and our small school is in how we are able to communicate with each other quickly and effectively.

What will TCPS look like in the fall?

Looking ahead to the 2020-21 school year, we are making plans to be back on campus, but will also be preparing contingency plans if needed. Potentially, there could be certain health requirements involving physical distancing and limiting the sizes of large gatherings in schools. With our already uniquely small class sizes and small school population, TCPS has a distinct advantage over larger public and private schools as we expect to more easily facilitate any potential spacing requirements and size gathering limitations that may be put in place.

In what has been somewhat of an uncertain time, I take great pride and comfort in knowing that the entire TCPS community HAS risen to this enormous challenge in an unparalleled manner and because of that, we continue to keep the needs of **the child primary**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns or if there is anything we can do to better support your family.

Hoping you are safe and healthy,

Donny Kim

Head of School
The Child's Primary School