



Dear LTS Family,

We are fortunate that there is no known case of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, on our campus. I am writing this afternoon to inform you of upcoming measures to limit exposure to the disease among members of our school and broader communities. These steps are borne out of caution and care, to flatten the curve:

- Our students will return to campus on Monday, March 16, to prepare for distance learning and gather their relevant learning materials. Dismissal will be at 3 pm for all buses and all students. Even for this one day, students should stay home if sick or experiencing cold or flu symptoms.
- LTS will be closed to students and families from Monday, March 16 at 3 pm through at least Friday, March 27. We will be evaluating throughout when to reopen, in light of future developments.
- We will transition to distance learning beginning on Thursday, March 19. The two-day interval of Tuesday and Wednesday, March 17 & 18 will enable our faculty to further prepare for distance learning. Our faculty accomplished a lot today on our Flexible Plan for Instructional Continuity, and will be further developing means of curricular presentation and instruction to offer authentic distance learning opportunities to our students. Mary Ellen Mega will be sharing more specifics on our distance learning program in a separate email on Monday.
- There will be new expectations for independent work placed upon our students preparing for IB and AP exams. We will work with you individually to develop your custom approach.
- On Monday, March 16, we will be distributing Chromebooks and chargers to those students who need to borrow this equipment. While we have a fair supply of Chromebooks, we ask that you be a good citizen about needing a loaner device. Families with multiple children in our school should be certain that each child has the ability to engage with our distance learning. If you have any questions about your capacity to participate in distance learning - for technological or for financial reasons - please email [tech@longtrailsschool.org](mailto:tech@longtrailsschool.org), and we (Jeremy) will be delighted to help you.
- All LTS events are postponed or canceled, effective Sunday, March 15, through Sunday, March 29. The SAT administration **will** occur tomorrow, Saturday, March 14.
- During this closure, facilities maintenance will continue to protect the health of the community for our eventual reopening.

It is our fervent goal to provide a continuous learning experience for our students. The health and safety of our students, faculty, families, and visitors - and the public health of our larger community - is our top priority. We recognize that this decision will burden our families, including vital healthcare workers. We are making special provisions to assure equity for those students who rely upon us for nutritious lunches or other support.

This is a stressful time for our students, faculty, and families. Every LTS professional will support you during the closure. Moreover, we are developing some exciting ways to keep up our connections with one another in a time of social distancing (electronic color games, anyone?). The emotional and mental wellbeing of our students remains at the forefront of our agenda.

These times remind us how pivotal our connection to one another is, and how Long Trail School fundamentally is about caring for each other. We are keeping those directly impacted by the novel coronavirus in our thoughts and wishing strength to all who are caring for those who are suffering.

We will stay in touch. Meanwhile, thank you, as always, for your ongoing partnership and support.

In safety and health,

/s/ Seth Linfield

Head of School