Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Dear Interschool Families,

As concern grows about the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we want you all to know that the heads of our Interschool member schools are closely monitoring this situation, working together to ensure that all of our students, staffs and families stay safe and healthy and that our communities are prepared for whatever steps we may need to take.

As you know, at this point, there has not been an outbreak of coronavirus in New York City, but officials at all levels of government are actively engaged in prevention and developing a coordinated response. Our Heads of School are taking part in a meeting this week with the New York State Department of Health and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to hear the most up to date information and to learn about state recommendations and how our institutions might be affected. Several of Interschool’s security leaders and health advisors are meeting this Thursday with the city’s Office of Emergency Management to learn additional details about the city’s preparations and precautions. Currently, our school’s responses are focused primarily on emphasizing general illness prevention and containment within families and at school.

Some of our schools are already taking steps to cancel some international trips in affected areas and are re-scheduling others. Your individual schools will keep you updated about all of those decisions. We are also seeking guidance for providing community members helpful advice about returning to school after Spring Break.

Additionally, we will receive updates from the Department of Education and the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) to coordinate planning and communication.

In the meantime, it’s important to remember common sense guidelines for good health and safety, like frequent hand washing, keeping kids with fevers and flu-like symptoms home, and being protective of others when coughing and sneezing.
We are deeply committed to keeping everyone in our community safe and healthy and will share any additional information as soon as it becomes available.

Kind regards,

Adrienne Barr
Executive Director,
New York Interschool and Faculty Diversity Search

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The Brearly School

John Botti, Head of School
The Browning School

Patricia T. Hayot, Head of School
The Chapin School

Lee Levison, Head of School
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Paul A. Burke, Head of School
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Bodie Brizendine, Head of School
The Spence School

John Allman, Head of School
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