



March 12, 2020

Dear Worcester Academy Community,

I am writing to update you about some of the actions being taken to ensure the health and safety of our community as we continue to deal with the growing global impact of the COVID-19 virus.

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Our Emergency Response Team is meeting regularly and processing information from a wide range of government and industry sources, and we continue to follow the requirements and recommendations provided to us by government agencies and officials. While we hope this is not the case, it certainly is possible that we will need to close school for a period of time this semester in response to potential or demonstrated health concerns within our school community or in response to a recommendation or directive from a government agency.

Regardless of the circumstances, we are committed to the education of our students and the well-being of our entire WA community.

TRAVEL / EVENT CANCELLATIONS

In light of the fact that Governor Baker has declared a state of emergency and has issued travel guidance and other recommendations, Worcester Academy has cancelled all near-term school trips, upcoming business travel, and alumni events. We are also continuing to evaluate the viability of larger gatherings and events on campus. For example, we are making alternate plans for Revisit Days, when we normally invite newly admitted students and their families to campus.

At this time, our Alumni Reunion Festival 2020, set for May 2, is still on, though we will continue to monitor the situation closely. More information can be found on our registration page at worcesteracademy.org/Reunion2020.

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO CAMPUS

Spring Break is always an ideal time to complete necessary work on our facilities. This year, we are taking advantage of the time to deep clean and sanitize campus buildings. We are also focusing on limiting exposure and risk by restricting access to campus.

Vehicles and pedestrians can enter campus during the workday (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) only through the main gate on Providence Street or the Rader/Kingsley gate on Aetna Street until school is back in session. Both gates will be staffed by campus safety. Campus safety officers will wave through vehicles with current Worcester Academy parking stickers affixed to the front windshield. All vehicles without a Worcester Academy parking sticker will be stopped, and drivers will be asked to sign in, stating the purpose of their visits. Campus is only accessible through the Providence Street gate after hours and on weekends.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS / LOOKING AHEAD

WA Administrators and I will continue to write letters and send other updates to the community regularly. Additionally, we are adding a COVID-19 resource board to **myHILLTOP** that will be updated frequently for internal audiences.

The COVID-19 situation is fluid and evolving, so we must be flexible and adaptable. We reserve the right to modify our plans to meet these changing conditions.

Each step we take to be prepared and informed is done with the goal of keeping Worcester Academy a safe and healthy environment to learn and grow. We are incredibly grateful for your patience, flexibility, and support as we navigate these extraordinary circumstances.

Sincerely,

Ron Cino
Head of School