



3/12/20

Dear families,

As you are likely aware, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed the first cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Ohio earlier this week. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness with symptoms similar to those of the flu: fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Governor Mike DeWine has ordered that all kindergarten through 12th-grade schools close through April 3. While the order allows for students to attend tomorrow and Monday, the GCA School Board leadership and the Administrative team made the decision to close GCA on Monday, March 16th. As of right now, tomorrow, Friday, March 13th, will be the last day of school until school resumes on April 6th. **In light of this, there will be no school activities after 3 PM on Friday until further notice. This includes the dodgeball tournament, all athletic practices, and drama practices.**

Though school will close after Friday, **the end of the third quarter will be Monday, March 16.** Work may be assigned Friday that will be due Monday by noon and will be included on the current nine-week's grade card. Electronic assignments should be submitted electronically per the teacher's instructions. Paper assignments may be dropped off at the front desk by Monday, March 16, at noon or students may scan or take a clear picture of their work and email it to their teacher also by noon, March 16. Any questions can be addressed to the teacher during the day on Monday at their posted GCA phone number or school email.

All students must take all of their books home tomorrow, March 13th. High school students should also take home their Chromebooks. All students should take home coats, backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, etc. We ask that you please sanitize these at home before returning to school. Middle school and high school students are to take everything out of their lockers tomorrow (with the exception of locker organizers). The building and lockers will be disinfected during this closure. If parents would like to help, we need volunteers to come in tomorrow, March 13th at 2:15 PM to help students pack up all of their belongings.

The Ohio Department of Education will release more guidance for schools by Monday and we hope to have more clarity at that time. **The Administration will communicate by end of day tomorrow with a plan for distance learning as well as our plan for all extracurricular activities/ practices during the next three weeks.** We greatly appreciate your patience during this time as we navigate through this unprecedented event. Additionally, we are thinking ahead regarding the potential impact this will have on Spring Break travel if the situation escalates. We ask that you stay informed of the [CDC's travel advisories](#) and continue to monitor your email and the school website for additional information.

To minimize the spread of any infectious disease, including COVID-19, it is important to follow basic health best practices. The Ohio Department of Health makes the following recommendations to protect yourself from illness:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; dry hands with a clean towel or air dry hands.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

Follow the following links for the latest COVID-19 updates:

Federal: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

State: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home>

Local: <https://www.lickingcohealth.org/COVID-19.html>

This situation is rapidly developing, and we will release communication as soon as possible in regards to other upcoming GCA events. Please be assured that the GCA School Board leadership and Administrative team will continue to monitor, meet, and respond to ensure the best outcome for GCA's students. We appreciate your patience at this time and your willingness to take the appropriate steps to protect the health of everyone in our community. Please join us in prayer for the health and safety of our local and global communities.

Partnering with you in training your students to be servant leaders,
Lee C. Reno
Head of School