

Dear Parents,

A quick note. I write in gratitude for the incredible support parents have given to our faculty, staff, and students. I have no doubt this has been the longest school week on record, and most have handled it with grace and good will. Given the immense stress that many of you, as well as our faculty and staff are feeling, I want to urge you to stay away from your screens as much as possible this weekend. I know I know—some of you will say “we would, but there’s too much ACS homework” or “what else are my kids going to do?” So yes—there may be some assignments to work on that need a computer. And perhaps there is a good healthy reason for some of the kids to stay connected with each other online and just relax. All of this true, so I recognize that each parent, child, household will make adjustments and do what is best for them. But note—I did not say stay off the computer. I said stay away as much as possible. This means make a conscious effort to unplug. Make a healthy choice!

And please—give our faculty and staff a respite for the weekend. They need it! I promise we are working to make adjustments to the online workload and assignments. This is a new world, and we will be looking at how much screen time in a given day really makes sense. It is one thing to talk conceptually about how great online learning can be; it is another to experience it on an hourly and daily basis, for what could be weeks or months. We can’t simply assume that what works in our classrooms everyday translates to tablet learning. Or is sustainable in a healthy way.

As the Governor has already moved back the potential reopening of schools to April 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Chicago Public Schools are not returning until at least April 21<sup>st</sup>, we know for certain we will not be opening school on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Therefore our faculty and staff need to have the time and space to access and reassess what make sense online for a truly extended period of time.

So—this weekend focus on family, health and friends. Stay away from the screen when possible, and make a list of the good things in your life right now. If you do need to reach out, please do so directly to me. I don't want anyone to be feeling overwhelmed with something and feel they cannot reach out. Please email or call me--860-418-9715. While of course I have responsibilities, my job is a piece of cake compared to the pressure our faculty and staff are feeling now. Benny and I welcome communication!

With virtual hugs to all,

**Paul Druzinsky**

**Head of School**