



UPDATE #3 – March 16, 2020

PCS continues to follow the guidance and expertise of national and local health officials regarding COVID-19. Today, the President recommended limiting gatherings to 10 people or fewer and transitioning to remote learning in schools where community spread has occurred, which includes the Houston area. **We have therefore decided that we will begin remote education March 23, which will continue through April 9**, unless circumstances change drastically such that on-campus instruction is possible. If able, we intend to resume on-campus classes April 13.

The following provides more details about activities in the coming weeks:

- **March 16 – 20**
 - Extended Spring Break for PCS students
 - Continuation of campus disinfecting
 - Closed campus except for faculty and staff as final preparations are made for remote instruction
 - Friday, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, families come to school to pick up books and materials according to the schedule below. Upper School students will be allowed into the locker hallway 10 at a time.
 - A – E 12:00 – 1:00 PM
 - F – L 1:00 – 2:00 PM
 - M – R 2:00 – 3:00 PM
 - S – Z 3:00 – 4:00 PM
- **March 23 – April 9**
 - Education resumes with remote instruction (additional details to follow in the coming days).
 - The PCS campus will remain closed except for essential personnel.
 - School operations will continue with calls and emails answered within 24 business hours.

We are asking each family to please complete this [survey](#) to help us continue to serve your needs well as we transition to remote instruction.

Below you will find answers to some of the common questions we have received. Further questions specific to remote education and the PCS response to COVID-19 should be sent to questions@pcsclassical.org.

- **What type of communication can I expect from the school?**
 - A COVID-19 webpage is being added to our website this week. We will post school updates to this page.
 - Updates will be numbered for easier reference (this is update #3).
 - School announcements will continue to be included in the regularly scheduled Connection email (Fridays).
 - Parent Alerts (text messages) may be used as needed.
 - Our staff is working and will continue to answer phone calls and emails within 24 business hours Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

- **Will we still get to participate in traditional PCS events?**
 - Health officials are discouraging gatherings of more than 50 people and President Trump is now discouraging gatherings of more than 10 people. We will continue to comply with their recommendations as we move forward.
 - The Gala (scheduled for April 4) has been postponed; additional information will follow.
 - Athletic practices, games, and meets have been canceled/postponed through April 12.
 - Student travel has been canceled/delayed through April 12 (including field trips)
 - We are discussing events that occur after April 12 and considering how to honor traditions in the midst of these changing circumstances. You will receive updated information about the following events as it is available:
 - Student Council elections
 - 2020-21 Upper School scheduling
 - Senior Thesis Presentations
 - Muffins with Mom
 - House Inductions
 - AP Exams
 - Spring Concert
 - Junior-Senior Ball
 - Field Days
 - Final Exams
 - Awards Ceremony
 - Commencement

Clearly, this situation is unprecedented for us. As most of you know, our response team began meeting before the break and has continued discussions throughout the past few weeks to prepare the PCS campus for this situation. We will communicate regularly with you as further decisions are made relative to the education of your children. We appreciate your notes of encouragement and your patience as we adjust to the evolving situation impacting people around the world. I also want to express my appreciation of our team who has given up much of their Spring Break to make adjustments and preparations that will enable us to serve our families best.