



March 20, 2020

Dear Stanley Community,

We hope you are finding ways to enjoy the lovely spring snow and that you are adjusting to our new ways of living and working at home. As I'm sure you've heard by now, Governor Polis has directed that all schools in Colorado suspend in-person learning through April 17. As a result, our division heads and teachers have been hard at work planning "Phase Two" of our home based learning plan. We'd also like to share a [letter to parents from the Association of Colorado Independent Schools](#) – as Executive Director Alan Smiley notes, our communities are strong and with the collective, sustained effort and support of students, teachers, parents, staff, administrators, trustees and community members, we will be successful in our efforts to weather this significant challenge we are all facing.

Home Learning Program – Phase Two

As discussed in an earlier letter, we designed our home learning program with a number of mission-informed principles in mind, the first of which is "flexibility." We imagined that the time away from school might indeed extend beyond the initial two weeks. While much of our thinking and approach, such as connection with individual students, will remain in our implementation of "Phase Two," we will begin to incorporate new elements into the program starting on Tuesday, April 7. Central to these strategies will be the use of Zoom meeting technology to enable live touchpoints and classes each week. The frequency and duration of these virtual classes and meetings will of course vary from division to division, taking into account the developmental suitability at each age and also the purpose behind the sessions.

This week and next, some classrooms and groups will be piloting Zoom meetings as part of our preparation for full implementation after spring break. As we begin incorporating new technology into our home learning program, our guiding principles and values remain the same. While more device time will be an increased element in the program after spring break, we will continue to design our program with reasonable limits on screen time in mind and encourage a healthy balance of activity during the school day.

You will receive specific information from your division leader on Wednesday, March 25, describing Phase Two of our grade-level programs. We have greatly appreciated the feedback we've received from parents and students and continue to welcome input as we move forward this spring. We know that any one approach will not work for all our learners, and we are committed to offering options and to differentiating for individual students as we are able. Through the implementation of Phase Two, we will retain the emphasis on individual student connection, though teacher time will shift to balancing group virtual opportunities with personal outreach.

Spring Break

To confirm, we will hold spring break as scheduled, Monday, March 30, through Monday, April 6. Teachers will use April 6 as currently scheduled for a teacher workday to finish preparations for Phase Two of our home learning program, with no student or advisee calls that day, and we will begin programming again on Tuesday, April 7.

Please be aware of the quickly changing situation in Colorado and globally. New directives and restrictions on travel both within the United States and abroad are released daily. Please consider [new guidance](#) provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

Public Health Updates

We know that the COVID-19 situation is moving very rapidly. As a result, the Colorado Department of Public

Health has issued [new directives](#). Even though we do not see each other in person each day, we are all still part of the Stanley community and the broader Denver community.

- We encourage you to prioritize social distancing to [prevent community spread](#) – children pose a significant risk to more vulnerable populations, even if they themselves may not develop symptoms or become sick from COVID-19.
- If you or an immediate family member are experiencing symptoms or are not feeling well, please be aware of new protocols for seeking medical guidance, [testing](#) and [managing infection](#).
- If you or an immediate family member has received specific COVID-19 diagnosis or illness protocols, we ask that you share this information with me or Melissa Knott, our School Health Coordinator. This information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality but could aid us in cooperating with public health experts, if needed.
- It is important to find ways for self-care and support – these are confusing and anxious times. It can also be difficult to know how to support our children in these difficult times. [This link contains some useful ideas](#) for caring for ourselves and our children.

The Days Ahead

All aspects of our school operations continue – the business office, office of community engagement and the office of admission are all here to support you – we are working remotely and responding to email regularly – let us know how we can assist.

Communication next week will include:

- All-school communication on Monday, March 23, with information about event postponements and cancellations, as well as any important updates.
- Wednesday, March 25, you will receive division-level letters describing plans for Phase Two of our home learning program.
- Thursday, March 26, you can expect another Bulldog with useful links and news from our school community.
- Friday, March 27, we will share an all-school communication to launch spring break.

I am truly inspired by the creative dedication of Stanley teachers as they are collaborating each day to discover the best ways to maintain connections with our students and with each other, all the while caring for their own families. We will deliver connection and academic engagement for all of our students in the coming days in ways that align with our British Primary philosophy and 7 Goals for Learners. As we are able, and as we adjust to our new reality, we encourage flexibility, resourcefulness, creativity and calm and new ways of looking for and creating connections – with ourselves and with those that sustain us and bring us joy.

Thank you for all of your good will and support – please reach out if I can answer any questions.

Best,
Tim