

November 6, 2020

Dear Alumni and Alumni Parents,

UNCERTAINTY. I believe this word defines almost every aspect of life in our country today. As we navigate through these unprecedented times, "let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12) In the midst of this UNCERTAINTY, we are called to stay the course. We are CERTAIN of this - God is in control.

I want to express my appreciation to our entire school community for setting a positive tone in regards to the presidential election. This historical election underscores the value of DC's strong partnership with our families. As the coming days unfold, we have an important opportunity to work together to model civility and a healthy discourse that reflects maturity in Christ. Given the complexity of this situation, it is important to keep communication flowing with your student's division heads. Our school leadership is working hard to serve you and your students in the days and weeks ahead.

Experts predict the winter months will bring higher COVID-19 positivity rates. DC's administration continues to monitor these rates closely. Yesterday, our Pandemic Safety Officer Minda Garner and I were able to participate in a call with the Chester County Health Department along with a number of other private schools in the area. Of significant note - the CCHD stated that mandated school shutdowns are not likely. The CCHD is committed to supporting schools as much as possible in maintaining in-person instruction. In addition to the CCHD, we continue to consult regularly with our medical advisory team and the CHOP PolicyLab. Our commitment to leading with excellence through the remainder of the pandemic is of the highest importance.

Here are some key points of information regarding our ongoing monitoring and implementation of our Health and Safety Protocols:

- Consider how personal choices made outside of school might impact our school community and adjust your choices accordingly. Mirroring the DC protocols outside of school adds to our success in school. All of our advisors agree that the chief source of viral spread is social gatherings without distancing and mask-wearing.
- The Executive Leadership Team is preparing multiple scenarios should positivity rate increases require an adjustment to our current plans. More information will be provided as available.
- Providing opportunities for our students to grow through athletics, the arts, and other co-curricular opportunities are of great value. We are proactively adjusting co-curricular programming to provide the best experience possible for our students under current circumstances.

- Winter athletics are being modified based on the current transmission rates and the reduced number of area schools that are moving forward with their middle school programs this year. As a result, our middle school athletic program will shift to an intramural program (boys and girls basketball and cheer) that will run from November 16 - December 18. The JV/V winter teams and club sports will begin their seasons in December with contests beginning in January. Winter athletics would be paused if we reached a 9% positivity rate; interscholastic contests would be paused at 8% positivity.

Another area of CERTAINTY is the Lord's provision for DC on a daily basis. Yesterday's Upper Campus Virtual Open House was well attended and we have several families who are considering mid-year enrollment. The ECC/Lower School Virtual Open House will take place next Tuesday morning. We are also encouraged by the strong financial support DC is receiving in a very unconventional year. Be encouraged today - we serve a BIG God! At the same time, let's continue to petition the Lord for ongoing protection and provision. Continue to pray for Kevin Skaer and his family as he recovers from his fourth surgery. Praise God, the doctors believe only a minimum amount of cancer remains. He will begin a 4-6 week round of radiation in the coming weeks.

Our All School Thanksgiving Food Drive is underway. The collection of non-perishable food items will take place on both campuses through November 18. Donations from this year's drive will be funneled to the Chester County Food Bank. Please support this school-wide effort as you are able.

Let's continue to run the race set before us. Let's link arms and stay the course. Let's rest in the CERTAINTY of God's great love for us.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Dan Steinfield
Head of School