



May 2, 2020

Dear Parents & Mockers:

As I mentioned previously, we've been closely monitoring this fluid situation. In particular, we've been following the action of the Texas YMCA and their summer camps. The Y is one of the biggest providers of summer camps in the state. Thursday, I received an email from the North Texas Director of Youth Programming saying that the Texas Y had furloughed all upper level leadership, including her. I learned this morning that all the branch directors in the Dallas Metropolitan YMCA were also furloughed. Directors had already submitted plans for summer camps and expect to return to work by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. While the Y may have the infrastructure to "wait and see," we do not. After careful consideration and deliberation, we have decided to cancel this year's RESIDENTIAL portion of the camp. **We are still moving forward with the commuter camp and adding an online camp.**

Obviously, we are subject to whatever governmental policies are implemented by the state, county and city. We will certainly abide with whatever directives they issue. In the meantime, we are making modifications for commuter campers: reduce the ratio of students per classroom by capping all labs to 24, conduct lunch in classrooms, provide campers and staff with face masks and conduct all prudent sanitizing practices for the learning sites. We've hired personnel solely to insure all sites are sanitized who have been trained to do this for the food industry.

For the last three weeks, the teaching staff has been working behind the scenes planning and developing an online curriculum to run an online camp in conjunction with the live camp. We decided we will make the online option available no matter what. This means students have the option of attending the live commuter camp (\$750) or can participate in the online camp (\$600). Anyone who has already registered for the residential camp can transfer their registration to either camp or they can request a refund. In order to insure compliance with anticipated, governmental spacing policies and adhering to best learning practices, we will hold a hard cap of 24 students per lab. These changes are being made to the website as I send out this letter.

We have invested in purchasing a premium subscription to [Zoom](#) and will be using it as our video platform. Additionally, we will be utilizing [Google Classroom](#) to integrate and collect all lessons. Our intention is to closely replicate every aspect of the live camp experience. Here are some of the ways we intend to do that:

- Daily Live Streamed Lessons (by lab level)
- Designated Q & A hours with lab leaders
- Live Stop-n-Go sessions with lab leaders
- Electronic "check for learning" like [EdPuzzle](#) and [Kahoot!](#)
- Recorded Lessons made available for students who miss live version
- Instructor feedback to uploaded videos from students
- Breakout Zoom rooms for students to work with teammates (monitored by lab leaders)
- Zoom Mock Trials facilitated and judged by local attorneys AND sitting judges
- Daily College Readiness seminars from Michael Gao (Columbia) of [Admissions Uncovered](#) and [Gao Admissions](#)
- Students who participate in the online camp will still receive their camp t-shirt, water bottle and other giveaways.

There are many other details we are still working through. What can we do to keep camp fun for those online? And given that much of instruction will already be completed over video, what can we do to ensure that summer resources will still be available for students to review all year round? Since we plan to host both online and in-person camp, to what extent will those be integrated?

These and other questions will be the focus of our curriculum team over the next two months, and we will do our best to keep you in the loop as we make these decisions. Hopefully, however, this has given you a sense for what approach we are taking to designing an online model for the Champ Camp summer experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don A. Gonzalez', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Don A. Gonzalez, M.Ed., M.T.S.