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Academy Family,

I want to take a moment during these times of new 'adventure' and uncertainty to encourage you and perhaps provide some information and explanation. First and foremost, please remember that while it may seem that we do not know how this will all play out and what's to come in the following weeks, we do in fact know the big picture - and that is God! God is sovereign over ALL things, we know that He is good and has a plan for us and we know that we can lean into Him as a source of comfort and strength. His unfailing love, patience and provision has been proven over the course of all creation!

Secondly, I would like to point out that ACA has a long standing tradition of educational integrity, and with the availability of modern technology, the current closure situation will not impede us from continuing in this good work. We, particularly, are quite blessed in that we already have experience with how to present lessons through online instruction, because of how we handle snow days. Following PA Department of Education recommendations, many of the local public schools are trying to figure this out. However, many are floundering to get online instruction started and communicate with parents. We feel that we are ahead of the game in preparedness and take pride in our ability to maintain strong communication with you. Together, we can and will be able to maintain social responsibility while preventing our students from backsliding on the skills they have been working on.

Speaking of communication - our administrative team and teachers have set up extra channels of relaying pertinent information. The ACA website now has a specific page for posting COVID-19 closure updates, with a direct link from our homepage. There is also a new ACA YouTube channel where we have already started posting short, informative, topical videos for you. There is a link to our YouTube channel from our website as well. And of course, Jupiter and Google Resources will continue to be an ongoing means of communication, as always.

Our staff has been, and will be, diligent in providing you with all of the materials needed to be successful during this period of flexible online instruction. Flexibility is key here. We know that everyone is facing challenges, and so this time will be unlike our typical "cyber snow days". We will be, as much as possible, providing assignments to be done over the course of days. Each teacher will communicate with you how assignments and assessments will need to be turned in, and when that is expected. This will be done through a variety of channels (Juno Pods, Google Classroom, etc.) It is important that we don't create a backlog of work to be graded for the teachers. Our standard of participation has not changed. Your diligence in completing assignments and staying educationally minded is expected and appreciated.

Holding all things in proper perspective, we also know and appreciate that not all education comes from a classroom. This is a wonderful time to strengthen family bonds, breathe, relax and embrace other real-world educational opportunities! Bake with your kids, teach them how to double a recipe. Count coins and sort extra change you've accumulated. Practice story telling by writing. Do some automobile maintenance with your kids, have them involved in paying bills or filing a tax extension! I encourage you to embrace this rare opportunity to slow down and spend time pouring into your kids! It will bless you, I'm sure!

I love you all, I'm praying Psalm 91 over all of us, and looking forward to being with you in person again soon!

Sincerely,

Sue Stoner
Principal

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6