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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

## Updates from the Academic Office

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope you have seen Dr. Sgro's video message. Indeed, these are unprecedented times. The faculty is hard at work creating our best version of distance learning. As you might imagine, we are still fleshing out the details.

On Friday, we will email you specific and detailed instructions on how to access all on-line materials and engage in your classes. In the meantime, we do want you to know the following:



- This week is an extension of spring break. You have no added expectations, and we hope you will stay healthy and adjust to the many changes that are disrupting our lives.
- Our distance learning program will commence on Monday, March 23. In order to accommodate our global community spanning time zones around the world, we will be taking a blended learning model. This approach will consist of two parts:
  1. **Asynchronous Learning** which does not require the teachers and students to be on-line at the same time. This will provide students with the flexibility they may need in this new situation. Teachers will be posting lessons and assignments for students to complete on a daily basis.
  2. **Synchronous Engagements** which offer the opportunity for real-time interactions with teachers for group and individual support (akin to an on-line Conference Period) at established times.
- Look for an email on Friday, March 20 with specific instructions on how to access the appropriate resources you will need as we begin and a schedule for Synchronous Engagements with your teachers.

Please also know that school services remain available to our students: Dr. Miller (our school psychologist), the Learning Center, advisors, demo sponsors, the College Office—we are all here and stand ready to offer support.

Isolation and social distancing are antithetical to the Asheville School experience. Distance learning cannot replace what we so value here, but we believe the strength of the relationships we have formed and the solidarity of our community can sustain us through this chapter.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these uncharted waters.

Sincerely,

Helen Plaehn  
*Academic Dean*