



Monday, March 16

Dear Upper School Families,

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed Spring Break. We are eager to return to a sense of normalcy and community amidst this unprecedented time. Before diving back in, it is worth taking a moment to celebrate an incredible week of Interim travel, CORE, and internships. All of our travelers enjoyed amazing experiences and returned without incident. Our global exchange students have returned from France and Spain, as well. Thank you to all Upper School families for your support during Interim 2020.

In addition, I am thrilled to share celebrations from Mount Vernon's college admissions. The Class of 2020 has submitted over 400+ applications to 37 states and 3 countries and has received over 285 college acceptances. In addition to this, the class brought in over 5.6 million dollars in merit-based scholarships, not including HOPE. We are proud to say that over 40% of the grade already enrolled at their first-choice school, too. Please be sure to follow via Twitter at #mvpins as we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020.

The Upper School will commence Home Learning beginning Tuesday, March 17. As we return, please be reminded we are currently in module 5, week 3. Module 5 concludes on Thursday, April 9. Our goal is to ensure learning continues for as long as the School building(s) remain closed. Students should be able to independently carry out tasks assigned by teachers with minimal parent support. We recognize that home learning may pose challenges for families. We will do everything we can to make it as smooth and meaningful as possible.

How to get the most out of Home Learning Plan for the next two weeks:

- **Daily Check-in and Attendance**

To monitor attendance and assess students' daily experience, students are asked to complete this [US Home Learning Student Check-In Form](#) every day at 3:00 p.m.

- **PowerSchool Learning**

Teachers will continue to post the Week at a Glance overview by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. In addition, teachers will post specific details of the in-class lessons by 7:30 a.m. each day. Assessments and/or projects will be added to the [PowerSchool Learning](#) calendar at least one week in advance of the assessment. Innovation Diploma students using Altitude Learning will receive a communication from Brad Droke with instructions.

- **Teacher Access**

Teachers will be communicating regularly and will be available to support students and parents. They will share class-specific information tomorrow, including their availability online for office hours and when they may conduct virtual group conversations with the class via Google Hangouts or Zoom. Teachers will be available on weekdays via email and will respond to questions or requests for assistance.

- **Progress Monitoring**

We will follow our regular process for posting assignments, utilizing PowerSchool Learning, in addition to Google Docs and Google Classroom, similar to the process utilized in classrooms. Feedback will be offered in the regular pattern, including direct feedback on student work as well as grades and/or comments in PowerSchool. Email [Katie Cain](#) if you have trouble accessing platforms necessary to complete assignments.

Our goal over the next couple of weeks is to maintain clear communication and collaboration with the Upper School community. Teachers are working hard to design rigorous, relevant, and balanced learning experiences while recognizing the fact that every home situation is unique. We are committed to being creative and flexible. We want our students to be healthy, happy and challenged, so please know how much we value your feedback along the way.

Upper School Support Team

[Erin McCubbin](#), US Head of Academic and College Counseling

[Trish Bogdanchik](#), Dean of Student Life and Operations

[Wayne Dabbs](#), Dean of Student Life and Operations

[Meg Cureton](#), US Head of Learning and Innovation

[Margaret Gunter](#), Learning Coach

[Kelli Bynum](#), Upper Campus School Counselor

If you have any questions or if your family is experiencing illness, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Chip Houston
Head of Upper School