



Monday, March 23

Dear Upper School Families,

I am grateful for the stories and feedback you have shared throughout the first week of our home learning experience. Members of our community have experienced a wide range of moments including laughter, celebration, frustration, and fear as we all seek to adjust in unpredictable times. While much has changed, what remains the same is the School's goal for continuity of learning and the strength of our community. I am grateful to be part of a community that responds with generosity and compassion for one another, and also proactively anticipates the road ahead. The MV Mindsets have prepared each of us to be adaptable, resourceful, and ready to encounter all challenges. Equipped with many strengths, we look to the week ahead. What to focus on during Week 2 of Home Learning:

FEEDBACK

Parents, your feedback is very important to us. It has been invaluable for our team as we calibrate the Home Learning experience. Please take a moment to ["check-in" and share your feedback](#) with us by Wednesday, March 25, 11:00 a.m.

COMMUNICATION

As we sort through information from friends, family, the news, and other input, these are the primary sources of communication for the Upper School:

- [Mount Vernon Website - COVID-19 Update](#) - All School News and Updates
- [PowerSchool: Upper School Home Learning](#) - Upper School Community
 - Updates, Resources, and Celebrations
 - Recommend adjusting your settings for daily digest.
 - [Daily Student Check-In](#) - Please complete between 2:00 and 5:00 pm each day.
- PowerSchool: Specific Teacher pages - Week at a Glance, Assignments, Assessments, and Calendars. Based on feedback, teachers are incorporating more video instruction and zoom participation.
- [Twitter: #MVUnites](#) - Inspiration, humor, and a glimpse into Home Learning PS-12

Regarding PowerSchool, some of us experienced lagging last week. According to PSL, they have made significant improvements and reduced load times from 12 seconds to 1 second per page. Updates can be found on their [Status Page](#), where you can subscribe for immediate updates. Also, you can reach out to their Support team through the [Case Portal](#) where you can also [Launch Chat](#).

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Conference day was originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 25. Due to circumstances, **Home Learning will continue Monday through Friday this week, including Wednesday for students.** If you would like to schedule a call or conference with a teacher during this time of Home Learning, please reach out directly to the teacher via email and establish a time during workday hours.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

On Friday, March 20, the AP College Board made the decision to move AP Exams to remote administration at home this year, in a 45-minute free-response format. By April 3, the College Board will release new testing dates and parameters for each exam. You will be able to find that information [here](#). In some cases, AP exams will cover fewer units than previous years in an effort to help students prepare. Students should be receiving direct updates from the College Board. Beginning March 25, there will be free, online review courses that students can attend to help them prepare for their exam. We encourage Upper School students to take advantage of these opportunities. [Many review sessions are already scheduled](#) and more will be posted soon. Upper School students registered for their AP exams in the fall, so outside of sitting for the exam, no additional steps are required on your family's part at this time.

CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE WINS

We hope you've been following along on Twitter with #MVPins. The Class of 2020 has celebrated tremendous wins this week, including acceptances to George Washington, Davidson, Wake Forest, Parsons, Pratt, Clemson, William & Mary, and American as well as students enrolling at Millsaps, Georgia Tech, UGA, University of Wyoming, and Auburn. Nearly 60% of the Class of 2020 has committed to the college of their choice and excluding the HOPE scholarship, they've brought in over six million dollars in merit-based scholarships to date.

If you are a junior or senior family looking for information on changed enrollment deadlines, campus visit information, or anything else college related, please utilize [this resource](#) from the National Association for College Admission Counseling as a launch point.

SENIORS

On behalf of the Upper School team, I want to acknowledge the questions and feelings of the Class of 2020. We know there are upcoming events and milestones of significant importance to you, such as prom and the senior luncheon. The School is continuing to analyze the fluctuating and unpredictable situation. We are doing our best to adjust and keep you informed. In the meantime, what is most important right now is for all of us to please stay at home. Refrain from meeting with one another in groups and maintain social distancing. Please continue to communicate with us as needed.

UPPER SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM

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

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

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

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

[Margaret Gunter](#), US 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