

THE

From the Headmaster

March 12, 2020

Greetings,

This update about The Oaks and the coronavirus is hitting your inbox in a different cultural setting than last week's update. Things are moving quickly! Today's letter is for the purpose of giving you an update on how The Oaks is thinking and planning in this season, as well as to let you know of changes to tomorrow's talent show.

To begin with, **we are postponing the talent show** to a date to be determined. As we gather information on how to best live in society in the midst of this evolving situation, we have decided it best to postpone the talent show. Other upcoming school events are still scheduled at this time, including tomorrow's (Friday's) junior high basketball games.

This leads us to the topic of how we are planning in this season. The first thing to note about the coronavirus is that children are not the at-risk demographic. The over-60 age group is the group we are more concerned about. Any actions or precautions we take as a school are designed primarily to limit the exposure of children so that they do not become carriers as well as to protect staff and community members in the at-risk category.

We are following guidance provided by the CDC and the Spokane Regional Health District, as well as consulting local health care professionals. The current guidelines are to keep schools open and to be in contact if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our community. We are monitoring these sources closely as the situation evolves.

In the meantime, there is one key recommendation from the CDC that I want to share with you. **Any student who has a fever (>100.3) is to stay home for 72 hours after the fever breaks. The other guidelines from the CDC at this time are to stay home if you are sick**, be extra vigilant with hand washing, and cough into your elbow or shirt sleeve.

Also, given the evolving nature of the information about coronavirus, we are outlining plans for how we would conduct operations in the event that the Spokane Regional Health District directs us to close school. We are currently developing plans for a 1-week closure, a 2-week closure, as well as options for handling a +3-week closure. Again, directives to close the school and for how long come from the Spokane Regional Health District. They are recommending we remain open at this time.

Our goal is to be wise and to prepare the best we can in a spirit of trust and faith in the Lord. There are some great parenting opportunities in this situation. God does not send us trials to simply weather, but He is providing us numerous opportunities to live out our faith. Read Psalm 91 with your children (the full text is included below). Discuss pestilence and faith and the beauty of the fact that our God is on His throne, in full control.

I will be sending you another update by the middle of next week at the latest.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you as your child grows up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Gratefully,

Charlie Dowers
Headmaster