

THE



A CLASSICAL AND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Greetings,

Wow! This has been an interesting past 24 hours! We have gone from being instructed by the Spokane Regional Health District not to close, to being ordered by the Governor to close until April 24th. I am so thankful that our God is on the throne! It gives such comfort and confidence to know that His hand overrules every situation for His purposes and to know that His purposes are good, if sometimes mysteriously so.

Last night and this morning, The Oaks administration has been meeting, refining, and preparing to mobilize toward delivering an Oaks education during the school closure. There are a myriad of challenges and some wonderful opportunities.

As a school community, we have three goals as we enter into this season of disruption. First, we aim to partner with and assist you as parents throughout the duration of the school closure. We recognize there are many ripple effects of both the school closure decision and the broader societal implications of the coronavirus pandemic. And so our first goal is to partner with and assist you in this as a community, banded together, loving one another. Our second goal is to continue to move our essential academic program forward. Given the range of academic instruction and expectations from five-year-olds up to eighteen-year-olds, what is deemed essential will look different at the various grade levels. Details on what this looks like for your child/children will be sent out next week. Our third goal, in priority order, is to continue to function as an Oaks community.

Our administrative planning sessions are aimed at living out these goals. The rest of this email will give you an initial direction for how this will look next week.

**Monday, we will have classes as normal.** If you do not feel comfortable sending your children to school, you are welcome to keep them home. During classes on Monday, teachers will give an initial set of homework to be done throughout Tuesday and Wednesday. **Parent-Teacher Conferences will continue as scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday.**

Beginning on Monday, March 30th, we will be conducting a teacher-driven, Oaks education via an online learning platform. This platform will be composed of Jupiter Ed (which has significantly more online functionality than we have chosen to utilize previously) and the video meeting platform, Zoom. As we prepare to launch these features, we need more information about the tech situation in each of our families' homes in order to plan appropriately. Please complete a brief survey (attached below) to help us know your current situation or copy and paste in the following url: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZNSH75](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZNSH75). Please complete this by Sunday evening if possible.

In God's graciousness, the timing of a six-week closure could not be better for The Oaks from an academic progress standpoint. We not only have Parent-Teacher Conferences, Spring Break, and Good Friday as scheduled time off in the next six weeks, we also had three days scheduled for History Emphasis, one day of Geography Day, and the Spring Ball. Boiled down, the next six week block actually consists of 17.5 instructional days in the secondary, and 19.5 instructional days in the grammar school. All that to say, there is a great mercy in the timing of this closure for us in our academic program.

At the same time, there is a significant impact on some special events. **All the special events during the six-week closure are cancelled.** At the advice of a team of medical

*"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Isaiah 61:3*

professionals, this includes cancelling our spring musical. Senior Thesis will still occur although there will be modifications to the audience experience.

Communication with you as parents is a very high priority going forward. You should expect another communication from me as Headmaster on Monday. You are welcome to join me for a parent Q & A in the sanctuary on Monday at 2:00 pm (do not be the 250th one there, or I will have to send you out). All items communicated at that time will also be communicated home via email later that day. We are also working on a regular communication schedule from myself as Headmaster, from Mr. McEachran and Mr. Trotter, as well as from the teachers and office staff.

I am grateful that we have a strong community here at The Oaks. I have been blessed by many texts, emails, and conversations with you all in which you have volunteered your time and expertise. Thank you! There are so many opportunities ahead of us to live our Christian faith. Christians flourish in trials through God's grace. The time is now! May we live our lives at this point, before our children, in a way that God's name is glorified. Let's band together as a community as we enter this time of disruption and demonstrate the love of Christ one to another. One specific thing we can do now is pray for the Lord's protection and healing in our community.

And since no coronavirus communication would be complete without a reference to Psalm 91, I have attached another quote from Charles Spurgeon on Psalm 91.

God bless and see you on Monday,

Charlie Dowers  
Headmaster

"His peace is not a thing of times and seasons, it does not rise and set with the sun, nor does it depend upon the healthiness of the atmosphere or the security of the country. Upon the child of the Lord's own heart pestilence has no destroying power, and calamity no wasting influence: pestilence walks in darkness, but he dwells in the light; destruction wastes at noonday, but upon him another sun has risen whose beams bring restoration. Remember that the voice which saith "thou shalt not fear" is that of God himself, who hereby pledges his word for the safety of those who abide under his shadow, nay, not for their safety only, but for their serenity. So far shall they be from being injured that they shall not even be made to fear the ills which are around them, since the Lord protects them."

From *The Treasury of the Psalms* Vol II, pg. 91 by Charles Spurgeon

[Online Learning Preparation Questionnaire Survey](#)