



April 3, 2020

Dear Lower School Families,

Yesterday I began receiving emails with answers to my “Flag of the Week.” I asked the students answering in my reply, “What is your favorite part of online learning?” I was heartened to hear that several said the one-on-one video conversations they had with their teachers this week were their highlights. Our school tagline is *This Is the Academy Experience* and, even though we can’t be together in person, we recognize how important the personal connections with their teachers are and strive to bring it alive virtually.

We are completing our first week of online learning in the Lower School, and I hope the week has been one in which your children were able to begin navigating the resources our teachers have made and accessing materials in a different way while becoming more comfortable and confident with online learning. I know the teachers have been connecting with you individually and are planning various homeroom class meeting opportunities in the coming week. Please remember that families in the Lower School are doing their work at different times (some early in the morning while others are doing it in the late afternoon), often dependent on when parents and guardians are available to support. We want to be mindful and respectful of your schedules and how it impacts opportunities for students to all be online together. Students are expected to be “in school” daily and completing work assigned. If your children are ill, please report this to your homeroom teachers.

Thank you for your patience during this first week. There were a myriad of technology issues to troubleshoot, completing assignments in new ways, and families communicating with faculty in new ways. This is new to ALL of us: students, parents, faculty and administration, and with that in mind I would like you to complete [this survey](#) to provide us valuable insight into how things are going for both your children and you. We ask you to complete it by noon on Monday, April 6, so we can use this information expeditiously.

Assignments for the next day are posted by 8:00 p.m. the evening before. This is to provide parents and guardians the opportunity to review what is coming up as we know you also have your own responsibilities. We do ask that you do not let your children begin working on the next day’s work the evening before. Here are [some strategies](#) that will help support your children with online learning.

As always, we all appreciate your support. We miss being together in person and wish continued health and well-being for all of you in the coming weeks.

Warm Regards,

Mark Hansen
Head of Lower School