



March 12, 2020

Dear John Bapst Parents,

The coronavirus/Covid-19 situation continues to develop, and so I am writing with the third of our updates from John Bapst.

As of this writing, there is only one confirmed case of Covid-19 in Maine. Our commitment to the health of our students, employees, and families requires that we pay close attention to the news each day, monitor what other schools and colleges are doing, and work closely with health professionals in our area.

Right now we believe John Bapst is a safe place to study, and we are staying close to home. It is our hope to continue classes here on campus as long as possible. At the same time, teachers have begun working on the process of converting their classes to online learning. If we need to move to online teaching in order to make sure students learn as much as possible this semester, we will do our best to be prepared to do so. With this in mind, we have canceled classes on Tuesday, March 17; this will now be a teacher in-service day. (Classes are scheduled as they normally would be for all other days next week.)

In the event the school must move to online learning, final grades and credits in all courses will be possible as long as the student completes the required work. Note that students in AP courses will still see “AP” on their transcript even if they are unable to take the AP exam in their subject(s). The College Board has not yet announced changes in AP testing (this might include whether test fees already paid are refundable or if there are plans to offer alternate AP exam dates in the future).

The school took several more important steps this week, including limiting domestic travel (in other words, within the United States) for our teachers and students. School-sponsored spring break trips have been canceled, and school group travel that had been planned for conventions and competitions has been canceled. This includes group events both outside the state and here in Maine. Beginning next week, we are curtailing the number of large-group events held on campus, including college and financial aid information nights and the upcoming talent show. Still unknown as of

this writing are the potential effects on spring high school sports in Maine, and we are in regular contact with the Maine Principals' Association about this.

Around the school itself we have taken steps to increase not only cleaning, but also disinfecting of surfaces like dining tables and student desks. We continue to emphasize the importance of basic hygiene. Staff and students with fever, coughs, colds, the flu, and other respiratory symptoms should stay home until they have recovered from their cold or flu, and should there be any possibility that they have had contact with someone who has Covid-19, a call to a doctor to consult about whether a test is indicated is essential.

Finally, we are asking *all* John Bapst community members who are planning international *or* domestic travel between now and the end of the school year to share their travel plans with the school via email (mmackay@johnbapst.org). Please keep current on US State Department and other travel restrictions. If you or a family member were to travel through a high-incidence area, some kind of a quarantine might be required. As mentioned earlier, we took the step of prohibiting faculty and staff travel to conferences, meetings, and the like this week.

Thank you for your support, patience, and understanding, and best wishes as we all do our best to stay healthy and safe through this challenging time in the world.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel MacKay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Mel MacKay
Head of School