



March 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope everyone is safe and doing well during this challenging time. The Winston School staff appreciates your patience and flexibility as these are unprecedented times. As we move forward, the entire staff is working on providing your students with access, educational opportunities, and social connection.

The greatest amount of flexibility will be given. We want all our students to participate.

Right now, every student is participating. We want to continue this level of success and interaction. If you need support or your schedule and access changes, please notify the school at office@thewinstonschool.org.

We kindly ask that you communicate with your students the need for flexibility. In addition to being teachers, many of our staff members are parents with young children at home whom they are also trying to manage.

Additionally, all rules and policies in The Winston School Parent and Student Handbook and acceptable use policy remain in effect.

- Take time to review your expectations with your student during this time.
- Create routines together and follow the schedule we have provided for daily learning.
- Consider creating a media contract at home in regards to the use of technology, your expectations as a parent, and access to screen time during the school closure.

Parents have asked about the need for different technology platforms. The school must utilize these platforms to accommodate flexible learning and teaching styles.

Please note that beginning today for our privately-placed students, attendance, grades, and earned credit will commence.

Regarding our publicly-placed students, we are awaiting guidance from the San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego County SELPA Directors and placing-district administrators. The school was advised to direct all communications regarding your student to the district-assigned case manager, not the Winston case manager or staff.

Going forward, Spring Break will begin as scheduled starting on Saturday, **March 28**, and ending on Sunday, **April 5**. During this time, The Winston School Network will be shut down. Student

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accounts, emails, and staff access will not be available during this period to take a much-needed break and focus on self-care and family needs. We ask everyone to refrain from email during this closure in order for staff to focus on the new learning platform when we return Monday, **April 6**.

Lastly, we will be providing a list of frequently-asked questions on our website to provide families with information regarding our distance-learning program.

As I think of the future, it is my hope and plan to share with all of you what the next few months will look like and plans for the summer will entail. I appreciate everyone's flexibility at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'D. Harris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Dena Harris

Head of School & Executive Director