Dear Ivymount Families,

I hope this finds you and your families well. Ivymount staff have thought of you constantly this past week. We’ve been pleased to hear from many of you about the resilience and flexibility your children are demonstrating in this first week away from school. We applaud all of you who are juggling work and caregiving – all at home.

We recognize that this is an unprecedented situation and there is a great deal of uncertainty for all of us. Guidance from federal, state and local officials continues to indicate that school systems around the nation will be faced with extended closures beyond our scheduled return on March 30. **We will report back to you as soon as we have answers and will follow the directives of the State of Maryland and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).**

I want to assure you that we are working hard to consider the needs of our students and prepare for the impact of a longer closure. We are researching programs and executive orders recently generated by the federal government to see how they may apply to Ivymount. The local school systems (LSS) are just starting to introduce their expectations for e-learning/remote instruction for public school students. At this time, we are not clear on what expectations each LSS will have for Ivymount students related to e-learning or how Ivymount and your child would be able to meet them. I’m confident we will navigate these uncertain times together.

Please make sure to sign up for quick links from your LSS and/or monitor their websites. Right now, as a community, we need to do what we do best – stay flexible, support each other, follow best practices while staying informed, and prioritize taking care of ourselves and our families.

As of today, we have only had one case of COVID-19 reported within the Ivymount community. The family we told you about on March 17 has shared that they remain in good condition. We will continue to notify you if we hear of new cases in our community until March 29, which would be more than two weeks since our staff, students and families were at the Ivymount campus. Until then, please make sure to notify us if your child or a member of your immediate family is tested positive, by emailing studentcovidreport@ivymount.org.

Please note that the Ivymount campus, including all playgrounds, is closed until we re-open. There will be no one answering the phones or staffing the front office during the closure. We are checking emails regularly and the main office voice mailbox once a day.
Amidst the current uncertainty, I hope you have also had a chance to pause and reflect on milestones from the past week, perhaps slowing down your family’s pace, spending time outside, or using new online resources. You will continue to hear from your Ivymount programs with helpful suggestions and supports. We will also continue to update the Family Portal on our website.

I want to thank you, our students, and our staff for your resilience and flexibility during these unprecedented times. Working together, while remaining apart, we will prioritize the health and safety of everyone.

Sincerely,

Susan