Dear Ivymount Families,

Ivymount and Outreach continue to emphasize preventive measures such as cleaning, and student/staff education on staying healthy. In addition, we are making informed decisions around community programming and preparations for school closure.

**Community Programming**
To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not recommended that schools cancel participation in the community. As a preventive measure, however, Ivymount has canceled volunteer work placements at senior living centers and some other work sites on a case by case basis. Each program may make individual decisions based on their students.

We are also modifying work environments to implement CDC-recommended social distancing techniques such as maintaining three feet of distance between persons. We are planning field trips to places that are not crowded and are using public transportation during off-peak times to avoid crowds.

**School Closure**
As requested by Governor Hogan and recommended by the CDC, we are also preparing for the possibility of school closure.

- Ivymount will continue to follow MCPS school closure policies.

We have also identified scenarios in which Ivymount could be forced to make our own decision to close school:

- Specific exposure or increased risks that directly impact the Ivymount community: In this situation we will notify you and close school while we assess the situation. We will then work with the Montgomery County Health Department and other health officials to determine the best course of action.

- Lack of critical staffing: It takes a lot of staff to provide our programs - full nursing team, high staff-to-student ratios, behavior supports, mental health and other related services. Directors are working together to ensure we will be able to stay open even with reduced staffing, but there could be a critical point at which we would have to make this unfortunate call.

We will make all decisions with the health and safety of your children, family, and our staff in mind.

Sincerely,

Susan Holt,
Executive Director
Ivymount School & Programs