



SUFFIELD
ACADEMY

185 North Main Street
Suffield, Connecticut 06078
860-386-4400 | suffieldacademy.org

April 2, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As classes have resumed remotely I am writing to update our community on plans for the spring. As you know the global health pandemic requires us to continue distance learning activities through at least the end of April. Unfortunately, it is now becoming unlikely we can resume on-campus classes and activities this spring. If some of our students can indeed return in May we have infrastructure to continue classes both here and online.

I write these words with immense sadness, knowing how deeply we love the vitality that accompanies our daily life on campus. While there is no full equivalent, I see the Suffield spirit being replicated virtually and am very grateful for the commitment of our students, faculty, and staff. You are exhibiting unwavering enthusiasm during this incredibly complicated time.

Ultimately this has become our decision because of how the global health crisis is unfolding. Suffield Academy will do our part to ensure the educational journeys of all our students remain headed in the most positive directions—from final preparations for college for our Class of 2020 to ensuring all others are set for courses beginning next fall.

Let me mention a few specifics related to remote learning plans for this spring:

- We plan to sustain many annual spring term events virtually including a 50th Night program for seniors and our Kent-Davis Public Speaking Contest. Greg Lynch and other members of our faculty will communicate more details about these in the days ahead.
- We plan to have some end-of-year ceremonial programs virtually and also invite all members of the Class of 2020 and their families to campus for a commencement ceremony when it is safe to do so. We understand some may not be able to come depending on the date, but we hope many can and will certainly recognize all members of the class and stream the event.
- We know at this point NEPSAC spring tournaments will not be played and spring athletic schedules are essentially canceled.
- As mentioned on the COVID-19 section of our website (www.suffieldacademy.org), Advanced Placement exams will be taking place online.
- Our faculty members are incredibly eager to help each student succeed throughout this time. So, too, are our school counselors, and they can be reached for online meetings.
- Assuming virtual programs continue through the duration of the spring term, parents can request a credit related to typical on-campus services. This will be a percentage of the spring term net tuition and will be determined at the end of the term. Chief Financial Officer Patrick Booth will coordinate this process.
- We would like students to hold off on returning to campus to get belongings until at least May 1. We know this is an inconvenience and we can be helpful here in boxing and/or sending belongings. We have been working with UPS on this also. Please contact Greg Lynch with questions about this topic.



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Despite this sad and complicated news, I am pleased to report two positive items. First, our III seniors will be heading to fantastic colleges and universities reflecting their significant and diverse talents. These selections are being finalized in the coming weeks as the May 1 deposit deadline approaches. Second, we are having productive meetings with newly accepted students and parents about Suffield. I can tell they see that our supportive, creative, flexible culture serves us well even in this most challenging time. We are forthright about how Suffield can provide both on-campus and virtual programs as needs arise. In noting all the positive attributes of our school, we are emphasizing that in choosing Suffield families are joining a genuine community that stays firmly together in both good and challenging periods.

Again, we know how incredibly upsetting this news is—especially for members of our Class of 2020—and all of us at Suffield are eager to be helpful and supportive. We hope everyone is safe, and we send our very best wishes to everyone in the Suffield Academy community.

Sincerely,

Charles Cahn III
Head of School