



COUNTRY DAY

CONNECTED

April 20, 2020

Dear Country Day Parents,

Today, Governor DeWine announced his decision to keep K-12 school campuses closed through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Cincinnati Country Day School will therefore continue its Country Day ConnectED remote learning program for students in Early Childhood – grade 12 until the final day of the school year, which is Friday, May 29, 2020. The governor commented that no decision has been made on the reopening of early childhood centers, affecting children up to age 5, but the decision is likely to follow the K-12 closure.

While we were hoping to re-open campus before the end of the second semester, we anticipated this decision and designed the Country Day ConnectED remote learning program as a long-term proposition. With each passing week, we are using feedback from students, parents, teachers, and staff members to further strengthen our students' learning. The program serves us now in this period and will further provide a teaching and learning framework in the event of future disruptions.

Program Refunds

On Monday, April 13, we communicated to Country Day parents that we will offer a refund to all families for a portion of lunch and extended day programming during the campus's closure. Now that we have clarity on the remainder of the school year, we will determine refund amounts, and parents can expect a further communication on refunds and credit balances in early May.

Yearend Ceremonies

The extended closure prevents us from honoring the Class of 2020's accomplishments in late May with the usual pomp and circumstance that surrounds a Country Day commencement. Instead, we will host graduation Saturday, August 8 on campus in a ceremony designed to meet public health guidelines (provided such events are permitted at that time). Between now and then, we will endeavor to hold as many of the festivities that mark our seniors' final year in a way that balances public health mandates yet sustains Country Day's long-standing traditions. We are also working on plans to celebrate our fourth graders' and eighth graders' transitions into their next division.

Summer Programs

Currently, we are moving forward with our regular slate and schedule of summer programs along with the addition of several new virtual options. If the school is required to make changes in either timing or structure to its summer programs, we will communicate changes as soon as possible. Many parents are hoping these programs will proceed, and so do we. Our summer programs website will be updated with the latest information and offerings.

While it will be an atypical end to the school year, as an educator, I cannot help but appreciate all we are learning as we adjust to a new way of life. The challenge has been significant, but as aptly expressed in our alma mater's call to unity—we stand together—I have been deeply impressed with the vitality and innovation of the teaching and learning during Country Day ConnectED at all levels of instruction. I know many questions remain about our return to campus, and we will communicate frequently in the weeks to come about the 2020-21 school year. When campus does re-open, we will do so with a stronger, more enduring program and a stronger, more resilient community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony T. T. Jaccaci".

Anthony T. T. Jaccaci
Head of School