

Dear Families,

As we look towards the end of our school year, we are excited about celebrating the achievements of our students and the special events we have to honor them. We know we are celebrating these events in ways that are unique and unexpected, but that makes it even more important this year to cheer our students accomplishments.

End of Year Events - all virtual (Zoom invites to follow)

The Art Show Opening Reception- Wednesday, May 27th, 1:00 pm (All families invited)

5th Grade Celebration - Thursday, May 28, 2:00 pm (5th Grade Families)

Closing Ceremonies - Monday, June 1, 9:15 am (All families invited)

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Tuesday, June 2- Friday, June 5 (conference scheduling in process)

8th Grade Dinner - Monday, June 8, 5:00 pm (8th Grade Families)

Graduation for Armstrong Class of 2020

We were so happy to let our 8th grade students and families know last week that we are able to plan our June 10th graduation on campus, following very strict public health guidelines. Our ceremony will be a combination of in-person and recorded pieces. The plan is for our 8th graders and their families to be parked in their cars on campus, with the graduates walking, one at a time, to receive their diplomas and be recognized individually. We are truly grateful that we will celebrate in person.

Details for the above events will be sent to families directly involved. We usually enjoy opening up our graduation to our whole community, but given the obvious space limitations, we cannot do so this year. We will be providing recordings of some or all of the ceremony.

Closing out this Year

We recognize that your students may still have belongings in school, either in their classrooms and/or lockers. In addition, we will need technology equipment back from all 2nd-5th grade students not attending summer school. We are finalizing our plan for having families briefly stop by campus and do a drop off/pick up and will communicate the plan next week.

Planning for Next Year

Planning is well underway for the 2020-2021 school year. As you would expect, we are planning for a number of different educational scenarios including:

- A full return to campus under thoughtful safety and health guidelines
- A hybrid learning experience, with elements on campus and elements at home
- A continuation of an at-home learning experience

In addition, we know we need to plan not only for each scenario, but also to potentially move back-and-force between scenarios as the public health situation dictates.

As we learn more about the expectations for creating a safe campus in the current public health situation, Armstrong does have some natural advantages compared to many schools, including our small class sizes and our co-teaching model. Of course, like any school, we will have challenges to think through as well. We will continue to make decisions in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements. We continue to keep the health and safety of our community as our north star, while recognizing that providing an excellent education to your students is essential to our mission.

On a more tactical level, we have three task forces that are addressing these scenarios:

- Academic Continuity Task Force: Consisting of members of our Leadership Team, Program Team, literacy coaches, and faculty
- Campus Reopening Task Force: Consisting of members of our Leadership Team, facilities, technology, nursing, student services, faculty and members of our Building & Grounds Committee
- Financial/Business Strategies Task Force: Consisting of members of our Board, Finance Committee, and Leadership Team

These three task forces will work both independently and together, given the natural impact their decisions will have on one another. We will continue to update all of you on our work throughout the planning process.

How can you help?

We have two requests this week:

Survey: We will be sending out a survey in the next few weeks asking a number of questions that we believe will inform our work for next year. For example, we will be asking about whether your student will be comfortable physically returning to campus if safety measures are in place. We really need this information for all families, so please fill out the survey when you receive it.

Expertise: While we have an outstanding team of educators on the Educational Task Force and great professionals on our Financial Planning Task Force, we can always use more input from experts for our Campus Health, Safety and Logistics Task Force. If you have expertise in infectious diseases, public health, space design, and personal protection equipment, or connections in the signage and cleaning supplies industries, please email Neil at ntuch@charlesarmstrong.org.

On behalf of all our faculty and staff, thank you for your ongoing support of our Armstrong community and your wonderful students. We all miss seeing them on campus and hope we'll be back together soon.

Jessica Miller

Neil Tuch

Head of School

Assistant Head of School/Chief Financial Officer