

RE: Indiana Academy COVID Update – School Closure

Dear Families and Students,

Last Thursday, it was incredibly sad to hear our Governor announce that schools are to remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 academic school year. While I support the decision from a student health and safety standpoint, part of me was still holding out hope that we'd be able to resume on-campus at some point this year.

Unfortunately, that is not to be the case.

There are any number of reasons why this is particularly upsetting to me, not the least of which is that we just weren't ready to say goodbye. Yet, while this is far from ideal, we have a faith that God has a perfect plan and that in the long run this will be for the best. Students, I think it's important to understand though, you are allowed to be frustrated, or even upset. At the same time, and while it may pale in comparison, I think about the disappointment Moses must have felt when God told him that he would not be allowed to enter into the promised land.

Nonetheless, God was faithful to Moses and still cared enough for him to *show* him the land He would be giving the Israelites. Even though Moses had to be disappointed, he still knew that God was faithful and had good things planned for His people.

Many of you are asking: "So, what happens now?"

Unfortunately, there are still quite a few things that we aren't able to specifically plan at this point. Our immediate plans are to continue providing a quality, Christian education through our remote learning interface. Though it may still take a bit of getting used to, this is a great opportunity for us to "see" and interact with each other as a school family. Your IA teachers are continually working to adjust and adapt to this new program and I appreciate your continued patience as we work the kinks out of the system. If you have questions or are having difficulty accessing your courses either through the Zoom links, Google Classroom, or even email; please contact your teachers (or Mr. Leal – it@iasda.org) ASAP.

I also want to ask that students, please be helpful and considerate in this process. While I know it may be tempting to take this opportunity to use technology in ways that are counterproductive to the goals and mission of Indiana Academy, I want to encourage you to remember those core reasons why *you chose* Indiana Academy in the first place. Please be sure that you are conducting yourselves in a manner that would be expected as if you were in a classroom here on campus; this includes your interactions with each other and your teachers in your Zoom classrooms and your continued "offline" interactions with each other. While I hope it is not necessary, any inappropriate behaviors (including instances of cyber-bullying, academic dishonesty, or the misuse of social media) will be subject to disciplinary action including withdrawal from the Indiana Academy program.

At this time, we are not able to definitively state what will be happening with Graduation other than we know that holding the event on-campus in May is no longer an option. Indiana Academy will plan an adjusted ceremony for our Class of 2020 graduates at a later date, but at this time, those details are not currently known. They will of course be shared ASAP as we receive more clarity from State officials regarding when gathering restrictions may be adjusted and we definitely want to do something to celebrate this accomplishment for, and with, our Seniors.

Thank you for your prayers and kind words throughout this process, as always, if you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Steve Baughman, Principal