



LONG ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE GIFTED

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Dear Families,

I would like to thank you for being terrific partners during this difficult time. I appreciate your calls and emails of support. Thank goodness the information highway is easy to navigate and I get information immediately. Additionally, since our community comes from Queens to Riverhead, we have district information quickly because of your guidance. We are certainly better together!

As I look to the future, it is clear that decisions must be made and quickly. I am also aware that any decision I make will be applauded by some and disappoint others. I can only use the information that I have at present and since the World Health Organization has now declared a pandemic in the United States, I, once again, have much to consider. That stated here are my thoughts.

Please know that I am acutely conscious that a school closure will greatly impact families. I am also well aware that staying open has risks. If I do not close, how long can we remain clear of the virus? I certainly do not want to wait for a confirmed case at LISG! Is this the right time? Can I get ahead of the curve? If I close, how long do I stay closed? I understand that universities can easily go online for the semester. I am a professor and have already begun online classes. LISG can also easily go online however, families need to have a preparedness plan and they need time to do so.

At this time, I know that Saint Anthony's closed. Today, two drivers reported that two Saint Anthony's students are on the bus. Saint Anthony's HS has not reported a case in their school, although they are testing. They also reported a grandfather tested positive and is in the hospital. I spoke with the director of security and was assured, there is no confirmed case and the schools that he heads are closed for "abundance of caution" with many returning after a deep clean.

Therefore, LISG will remain open and decisions will be made hourly. LISG is ready for a total school closure so please make plans for your child should LISG close. Know that I have the utmost respect for you and should you decide to keep your child home, we will send home the work and or invite your child to the classroom remotely. I respect all decisions that you make for your family. Every family has a different set of circumstances and every decision you make will be honored by our staff.

This is a time of great anxiety, which lowers immunity and therefore, I have asked my personnel to remain calm and use facts in lieu of fear. We want the day for the children attending to be joyous learning. Previous letters have outlined all of our safety plans and they are all on our website. May I please ask that you contact me to clarify facts before adding to a group chat? I am happy to speak with each one of you so that families remain informed of the

facts. This way, one voice from the school and not conjecture will help alleviate unnecessary concern.

We will reevaluate our status over the weekend and make a decision regarding next week. In the event of a closure, our plan is to reopen once the following criteria have been met. The criteria includes, but is not limited to:

- All members of our school community are healthy.
- Members of our school community have not been exposed, to their knowledge.

The word of the month at LISG is empathy. At this time, we remain empathetic to all our families and we hope that you do the same. I join the staff in wishing you good health and well-being at this time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Geyer