Dear Families,

During what has been a challenging and confusing time for us all, I am reaching out to provide a status update on new developments related to coronavirus, and share some additional details about the actions we are taking and planning to protect our school community.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is our priority. While the total number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is unknown, experts expect cases to grow as testing increases and more individuals seek testing and care. Currently, the key recommendations from public health agencies to prevent the spread of coronavirus are regular, thorough, hand washing and that symptomatic individuals remain home rather than going to work or school. We echo this recommendation and ask that students with any signs of respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms be kept home. Thank you to everyone who is being vigilant on this front.

We are in contact with our local department of public health to stay updated on the situation and take actions as needed. All SVCMS staff continue to focus on regularly cleaning surfaces like doorknobs, countertops, and desks. Disposable wipes are available throughout our campus, and we strongly encourage their use. In addition to our standard environmental care practices, we are implementing enhanced practices throughout our campus, including increased frequency and intensity of cleaning routines. Additionally, all HVAC systems in our buildings are now equipped with hospital grade merv 12/13 filters.

In addition to cleaning, we are implementing pre-event mitigation strategies such as increased attention to respiratory hygiene and disease transmission control education, symptom and attendance monitoring, as well as non-medical interventions like alternative greetings and social distancing.

Our leadership team continues to discuss how student learning can continue should the school be closed temporarily. We are developing strategies for providing age-appropriate, remote lessons to students—taking accessibility into consideration, as well as tools for staying connected as a community should it become necessary. We will communicate more details around what this will look like as it becomes necessary.

Some of you have reached out with questions and concerns regarding school and community travel. We understand that there may be anxiety around travel that families have planned for Spring Break. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended against nonessential travel. We have attached their guidance document for your reference and consideration. We will all
continue to monitor the situation for additional travel updates. If you are experiencing respiratory or flu-like symptoms following travel, please do not come to campus.

I am attaching several resources to this email and recommend you read them. Included are:

- Spring Break Travel Guidance from Boulder County Public Health
- Planning for School Closure from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Two different hand washing posters we have posted around school that you may want to use in your homes as well or at least be aware children are seeing (Keep Calm and Wash Your Hands and Stop the Spread of Germs)

Finally, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the psychological impact of this situation. The organized worldwide response to coronavirus has been robust and generally encouraging. However, the uncertainty surrounding the situation can lead to feelings of fear and anxiety. The National Organization of School Psychologists has released a parent resource for continuing conversations with your children about coronavirus, in an honest and reassuring manner. The New York Times also has a helpful article that offers guidance on this topic.

I have been struck by the patience, support, and resilience I’ve already seen in our community as we tackle these challenges. You are our greatest resource. Should our school need to close or if the situation changes quickly, we will notify you immediately. If the situation remains stable, we will continue to update our community regularly.

Sincerely,
Katie Torres
Head of School