



## The ACADEMY of Classical Christian Studies

March 17, 2020

Dear Families of the Academy,

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was my desire from the very beginning of this sobering episode with COVID-19 that I be able to speak with you—each of you—about the unfolding considerations surrounding our children. This video is the best that I can do.

The first thing that you should know is how very loved you are. The love of God has so permeated the hearts of this community that I receive emails of support, service, and prayer by the hour. It is because of their love for you. It is nothing other than the love of God.

It's that same love to which we appeal today. As you have no doubt seen in the news, the State Superintendent of all Oklahoma schools has suspended classroom-based learning at least through April 6<sup>th</sup>. We as a leadership team and board of governors had, in fact, come to the same conclusion in conversation with our administration just prior to the announcement, and were certainly happy that we were not the only ones drawing this conclusion from the facts at hand. Behind the scenes, our principals and chairs and other Ed Team members—in conjunction with our IT department—have been putting together a comprehensive plan for the continued and full education of your child during these weeks away. Unsure that the 2 weeks already announced will be enough, we desperately wanted to reengage your children in learning as early as next week, so that their continued discipleship and review would go on. In love.

To that end, we will be sending you a detailed email by Friday with lots of instructions for the various online platforms that we will be using for the weeks to come. We think that you will find them intuitive and surprisingly helpful. We will then, on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, take two snow days for faculty training in all that is being rolled out. On Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, we will spend a day troubleshooting with our families (more instructions soon to come), and then we will start classes back again on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Though we have been doing versions of distance/online/homeschool learning since 2004 (and therefore have an advantage), we know that there will be bumps. With as much anxiety as there is about the virus and the economy, we want this experience, as much as possible, to be a source of peace, reliability, and prayerful routine. We ask your patience and charity as you learn the platforms, help your children, and engage with our teachers and professors. Our online parlors of discipleship, though no substitute for physical presence one with another, should give us enough of our life together to maintain some small piece of the precious community for which all of you are known the city over.

Finally, rest. To the all-consumed, weary, and overbooked American life, this small break from routines, though scary and uncertain, is a Lenten opportunity for a richer prayer life, a more engaged family life, longer meals around the table, sweeter conversations of our Lord, and perhaps a new familiarity with our

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transformative curriculum and teachers. Receive it as gift. Be found, as Lewis says, doing ‘human things.’ Revel in having to be nowhere these coming weeks. As the Psalmist says, “The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him.”

As well, be safe. You are in our constant prayers as you were before. In the end, all that The Academy is—through a hundred classics, some intuitive teachers, a drawn self-portrait or two, and a basketball practice—we were only ever giving your children God to begin with.

As I said, stay tuned for more—it is on its way soon. Dwell richly in the love of God, and may the peace of God which passeth all understanding abide all the days of your life. Amen.

Sincerely,

Nathan Carr  
Headmaster

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