

Our Leadership Team continues to make responding to and planning for COVID-19 a top priority. We are focused on ensuring the safety of all members of our community and, as with other schools throughout our region, preparing for the possibility that we will at some point have to close school for an extended time. We continue to monitor relevant public health information and are regularly sharing ideas with other schools for how to best serve our students.

If you have not read our two previous updates on this topic (February 27th and March 4th) please do so, as the following update is in addition to that information. This update focuses on 2 areas:

Developing contingency plans

The Leadership and Program Teams spent meaningful time this week beginning to plan for an At Home Learning plan, focusing on the academic and social needs of our students. Our goal is to develop a thoughtful and realistic plan.

Although we currently have no reason or plans to close Armstrong for an extended period of time, **we have decided to close school for our students this Wednesday, March 11th, to allow our faculty to have dedicated time to plan for an At Home Learning Plan, should we need one.** Faculty cannot adequately prepare for At Home Learning without this significant investment in dedicated planning time. We recognize that this is an inconvenience for you, and we trust that you know we did not make this decision lightly.

To help us prepare, Lower School Families, please remember to **complete and return** the Technology Acceptable Use Form we sent home on Friday.

School Travel - Upcoming Washington DC and Yosemite Trips

We know we face very difficult decisions in the upcoming week. Currently, we are still planning as if our 7th grade Yosemite Trip and our 8th Grade trip to Washington DC are both happening as scheduled. We recognize these are coveted trips and long-standing Armstrong traditions. Our students look forward to these trips with excitement and anticipation, and we really do not want to cancel them. However, as the news and recommendations change daily, we are also realistic that there is a chance these trips may need to be postponed or cancelled. We will continue to closely monitor information related to these trips and make a final decision on them by Wednesday or Thursday of this week. We know the uncertainty is not helpful, but we want to have the absolutely latest information before we reach a decision.

Our leadership is focused every day on addressing the challenges presented by COVID-19, while still ensuring that every day at school is rewarding and productive for your students. We will continue to communicate our thinking and plans on a regular basis.

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