

## COVID-19 Preparedness: School Update

Dear BASIS Charter School community in Arizona,

In response to mounting concern nationally, the declaration of national emergency, as well as increasing reports of out-of-state travel among our communities during Spring Break, we have made the decision to close all BASIS Charter School campuses in Arizona. We **will be closed starting on Monday, March 16, 2020**. We will immediately prepare our schools for distance learning, and plan for **online learning to begin on Tuesday, March 17, 2020**.

For now, we will keep schools closed for the week, **through Friday, March 20, 2020**. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you regarding our decision for the following week. Schools in Tucson, Oro Valley, and Flagstaff--scheduled to begin Spring Break on Monday, March 16--will not have a change in their schedule at this time, but will receive additional updates throughout the week via ParentSquare.

Individual schools will begin communicating with their respective communities via ParentSquare regarding school-level updates and materials beginning this Monday, March 16. Students will receive assignments through ParentSquare with supplemental instructional materials distributed through Microsoft Teams for grades 4-12 ([minimum device requirements](#) for Microsoft Teams). We will notify you when supplemental resources will be sent. Please ensure that your students have access to a device with an internet connection. ***Please reach out to the Head of Operations at your campus if your student does not have either device access or internet access at home.***

### MANAGING CONCERN AND SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Distress about the spread of COVID-19 is heightened among both children and adults around the world, and that is understandable during this time of uncertainty. It is important, though, that we are diligent in modeling a measured and appropriate response for our children. Below are links to resources to help you in your own conversations at home.

- **NPR's "comic"** addressing common questions children might have about COVID-19
- **"How to Have A Panic-free Conversation with Your Kids,"** from *The Week*
- **"Talking to Kids about the Coronavirus,"** from The Child Mind Institute
- **"Talking to Teens and Tweens about Coronavirus"** from the *NY Times*

If you know anything about the BASIS Charter School network – and as our families, you know a lot – you know that the decision to interrupt the educational process for our students is not one that we take lightly. We are extremely grateful for the support and resilience of our community. We appreciate your assistance as we all work together and do what is right – and thus maintain a healthy and safe school community. The health and well-being of everyone remains our top priority.

Sincerely,

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