

March 13, 2020

Dear CLCS Families,

Thank you for your patience as we all continue to learn about the developing situation with the COVID-19 virus in the city of Boston. Between Thursday night and Friday morning, CLCS has been involved in two important meetings including Mayor Walsh's office, the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Public Schools leadership, representatives of the Boston Charter Schools, the MA Department of Public Health, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner, Jeff Riley, to amount the most updated information regarding the health of staff and students at CLCS during this difficult time. At this time, it is the position of the Commissioner that districts may decide to close schools at their own discretion—there is no statewide mandate to close school districts or individual schools. Furthermore, Mayor Marty Walsh has clarified that the Boston Public Schools as a district will not close at this time.

Currently, there are no COVID-19 cases reported among our students, staff or families from our community. We will notify the community if this changes. **Out of an abundance of caution, Conservatory Lab Charter School will close effective Wednesday March 18th for 2 weeks. We will re-evaluate the length of the school closure as needed. In addition, if Boston Public Schools closes prior to Wednesday March 18th, CLCS will also close in alignment with BPS.** Changes to the closure plan will be communicated to families via ParentSquare.

John Chistolini (Chief Operating Officer), Nicole Mack (Principal) and Kay Sloan (Chair, CLCS Board of Trustees) have weighed these decisions carefully to make the best decision for our school community. Student and staff safety concerns were paramount in our decision to close on this timeline. We believe this timeline will allow our families the time to make necessary arrangements for a school closure of this length, including arranging for childcare and making arrangements for food security. **We want to be sure that families are aware: if you decide to keep your children home from school on Monday and Tuesday, your student's absences will be excused when accompanied by a notice to the school office. We additionally refer families back to the March 11th notice from CLCS regarding COVID-19 precautions that CLCS will be taking while we are open.**

CLCS staff are working on a plan to continue to support students' learning during the duration of the school closure. We recognize that this is a new undertaking for both families and staff, and we will share specific plans for the Lower School and Upper School for continued learning as they are finalized through ParentSquare and direct communications from teachers.

As you know, it is an enormously fluid situation. Thank you for your flexibility during this time. We will keep families informed of any changes to our plans when they become necessary.

Thank you,



Nicole Mack
Principal



John Chistolini
Chief Operating Officer