

March 12 update

Dear Overlake Community,

This has been an incredible week. I am sure you, like all of us here, have watched as the virus has upended so many aspects of our daily lives – from working at home, to schools closing, to canceling of events, to limiting travel. I am sure all of this has made you wonder when and how this will end.

What has sustained me through all of this is the Overlake community. The emails I have received from many of you in support of the school, talking with our faculty and staff and hearing the work they are doing to support students in a new learning environment, and working with my students, who although miss being on campus, are showing up and giving their best effort every day. I am in awe of and inspired by this community.

As you may have read, today the governor ordered all K-12 schools in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to close through Friday, April 24. This makes it clear that the earliest we could open campus to Overlakers is Monday, April 27. This means we will continue with Overlake Online for that week leading up to Project Week and then resume online classes after spring break on Monday, April 13. We won't be having online classes during Project Week which means students will have a two-week break. During the week of Project Week will use some of these days for additional faculty training in preparation for the extended online teaching and learning.

As this has been an incredibly fluid situation, I don't have clarity on whether Monday, April 27 will actually be a date that the campus will open. As we learn more, we will communicate this information to you. Right now, we are targeting this date, but that may change.

For me, this first week has taught me a valuable lesson. I need a flexible mindset to successfully navigate through these unknown times, whether it is as Head of School, or as the teacher to my seventh-grade students. Schools rely on being able to plan and prepare for a predictable year. We publish our calendars months and in some cases years in advance and know well the ebbs and flows of a school year, checking off important milestones as we go. This past week has upended this routine. I would ask that you are patient with your children, with each other, and with us. We are all learning how to be in this very new world.

I would like to invite you all to join me in a virtual Town Hall meeting on Friday from 11:30-12:00. [Click here to join me tomorrow.](#) Now more than ever, this is the time to continue to meet and talk through all the various challenges ahead of us as a community.

If you are unable to attend this virtual meeting, please know it will be recorded and shared later in the Overlake News.

Looking forward to seeing you all (virtually),

Matt