

Dear Overlake Community,

One month ago was our last day on campus - March 6. It is astounding to think that several weeks ago, we were all thinking about how great *Seussical* was, getting ready for Project Week or Spring Break, looking forward to the start of the spring sports season, and the many special events at the end of the year.

With Governor Inslee's [announcement](#) yesterday, March 6th does mark our last day on campus for this school year. I was hoping to return to campus before the end of the year to allow us to be in this place and space with one another but that will not happen.

With this mandate, we now need to fully embrace being an online school for the remainder of the year. As I shared with several people, none of us – students, faculty, staff, parents/guardians started the school year thinking that in March we would be home bound with online teaching and learning. We, along with many other schools across the country, have pivoted to this new form of instruction. Here is an [interactive map](#) showing the other states who have closed their school campuses for the remainder of the school year.

Once again, I want to thank all of our faculty and staff as well as our students for making this significant pivot. We have and will continue to learn about what works and what does not in this new setting.

Last week the teaching and learning team ran several sessions for faculty of adding tools to their proverbial teaching toolbox. What stood out to me was the collaborative nature of the sessions and the commitment from the faculty. All of this work was done with the goal of ensuring that teaching and learning would continue with Overlake Online.

I know many of you have questions about what the Governor's announcement means for various events that were planned for this spring. Next week we will send out a comprehensive list of all of the planned events and if they are cancelled, done virtually or can be rescheduled. As you can imagine, many events will be cancelled.

To our incredible class of 2020: Please know how deeply sorry the faculty and staff are that your final year of high school has been turned upside down. When we are on the other side of this pandemic, we will find a way to recognize the class of 2020 and to celebrate your many achievements. I know this year has been particularly hard for you. I am sure each of you was looking forward to the significant milestones that the weeks ahead would have brought. I also know this time would have given each of you a chance to be with people that you have come to know and love.

As we move forward together, I know that what is vital is that we remain a connected and committed community. There will come a day when we are back on campus, enjoying each other's company and recognizing the specialness of the human connection.

Be well,

Matt