



**BROOKLYN
FRIENDS
SCHOOL**

March 15, 2020

Dear BFS Community,

First and foremost, I hope that amidst all of the news that is unfolding in our city, nation, and world, you have been finding opportunities to enjoy points of connection with those you care for and love.

Respecting that this is Spring Break for all and recognizing the need for much-deserved care for each of you, I am taking a moment within your time for self and family to communicate with you and acknowledge what you may or may not know - that Mayor De Blasio has just announced closure of NYC public schools until “at least April 20th.” Over the past 72 hours, as the impact of COVID-19 has been unfolding, I have been thinking about the possibility that our own school’s closure would have to be longer. Now, that is a certainty. As we follow our city’s school guidelines, and, as this is resulting from a global pandemic that we are all working hard to contain, the need to extend our closure is a necessary one and one that is meant to safeguard all within our community and beyond.

I am certain that there will be increasing questions and concerns from all of you about the time ahead. I am also certain that I, along with the BFS Leadership Team commits to navigating all questions/concerns/decisions with the utmost level of care and compassion. Over the next several days, I will be convening the BFS COVID-19 Response Team in order for us to thoughtfully consider the varied needs and challenges that arise as a result of this outcome and to speak about, among other details and considerations, our currently predicted date of re-opening. You should also be aware that NYC Heads of School are communicating regularly in order to consider all possibilities as we care for our community members.

Know that a primary focus of our work together has been and will continue to be minding the many ways in which every member of our community - students, parents/caregivers, colleagues are balancing the range of emotions that this difficult situation brings. We aim to serve as an ameliorative support to all. As you’ve learned, our BFS website contains a range of helpful resources.

Etienne de Grellet, Quaker missionary, stated, “I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

This is an unprecedented time that calls us to do good and show kindness to one another. It is a time that calls us to exercise flexibility and thoughtfulness. We are all working to make sense of a time that is unscripted. In doing so, let us do it together and with the care and empathy that our values-led community calls us to have.

Holding all in the Light,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crissy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the word.

Crissy Cáceres
Head of School