March 10, 2020

Dear Near West Families,

We are writing this letter as a follow up to our previous messages regarding the Intergenerational Schools’ response to the global spread of COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, and the planned upcoming GLE 8 trip to Washington DC. Given the steadily increasing numbers of reported cases, nationally, and here in Cuyahoga County, as well as guidance for prevention of the virus, Near West Intergenerational School is cancelling all school-sponsored out-of-state trips until further notice. This includes the planned 8th grade trip to Washington, DC. taking place during the beginning of Spring Break. Director of Operations Andrés Pérez-Charneco will work with families on any refunds or credits due for this trip. We understand this is very disappointing for our 8th graders who have long anticipated this milestone trip. We would like to work with students and staff to discuss the possibility of an alternative event to celebrate the promotion of our 8th grade students. Ongoing developments and updates on COVID-19 will help to inform and shape any plans for such an alternative event.

As a reminder, health officials stress a series of common-sense protections for our students, staff, and community:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid large crowds of people.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The health and safety of our students is always our top priority. We thank you for your continued support and we will continue to distribute helpful information and keep you informed as things develop. You may visit https://www.intergenerationalschools.org/covid-19 for the most up-to-date communications from our schools, information, and resources. Please reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

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