



NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL, INC.

Leaders Now And Into the Future “Yideeskáágóó Naat’áanii”



March 12, 2020

Dear NPS Community,

As you are likely aware, as of today, there are four confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the State of New Mexico, and it has been declared a pandemic across the world. On March 11th, Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham declared that a public health emergency exists in New Mexico and invoked the All Hazards Emergency Management Act.

At Navajo Preparatory School, we are committed to the health and safety of our students and staff, and the communities that they come from. Our goal is to be prepared and not to panic if this virus comes to San Juan County. We will make thoughtful choices about where our students go, and the ways that we interact within crowds. This will limit exposure to the virus and prevent the carrying of this virus into our home communities. By taking these precautions, we are supporting our hospitals so that they can prioritize the most vulnerable populations and address immediate medical concerns.

Navajo Prep is prepared to implement preventative measures in accordance with the State of New Mexico and our local San Juan County Office of Emergency Management. We have refined our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) so that it directly addresses this pandemic. As we respond to governmental directives (COOP: Level 3), we are initiating the following:

- Ceasing all staff and student travel outside of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation until the end of the school year.
- Following NMAA guidance regarding our participation in athletic and activity events. Recently, NMAA restricted attendance from semi-final and final championship basketball games. We have not received correspondence regarding Spring sports.
- Adhering to Governor Lujan-Grisham’s emergency order to limit mass gathering due to COVID-19. This emergency order prohibited mass gatherings of 100 or more individuals. While educational institutions are not considered a mass gathering, this order may have an impact on our school’s participation in future events.

With Spring Break approaching, I encourage all of us to be mindful of our own potential role in spreading the virus. Medical professionals and government leaders are advising that we avoid all non-essential travel. We ask that any students or staff who travel outside of the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, or the Four Corners for Spring Break, please notify Shawna A. Becenti at sbecenti@navajoprep.com. We want to be aware of our student and staff’s travel plans as it will help our school to be better prepared to respond to any crises.

Our school’s priority is to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff while also providing the highest quality education. Navajo Prep is closely monitoring this situation and will provide timely updates as necessary. Please check your email and our website regularly. We are working in a rapidly changing environment, and may ask for your flexibility if we amend our policies on short notice.

Sincerely,

Shawna Allison Becenti,
Head of School

Attachment: [COOP Plan COVID 19 revised 3.12.2020.pdf](#)