



# NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL, INC.

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



March 13, 2020

Dear Navajo Prep Students and Families,

On the evening of March 12, the New Mexico Public Education Department announced that it is closing all NMPED schools for three weeks starting on March 16th. As a tribally-controlled Bureau of Indian Education grant school, Navajo Prep has collaborated with the Navajo Nation, Bureau of Indian Education, and other governmental entities to determine our own plan that ensures the health and safety of our students.

Navajo Prep, with the full support of our Board of Trustees, will cancel classes from March 16-April 3 in response to the COVID-19. Classes will resume on April 6. This decision will help to slow the virus from impacting the communities we serve on the Navajo Nation and throughout the Four Corners. During these three weeks of class cancellation, all activities, athletics, and school-sponsored travel will be suspended.

We encourage students to take advantage of enrichment opportunities such as reading a book, utilizing Khan Academy, watching Ted Talks, and learning cultural teachings and Diné bizaad in the home. Navajo Prep has 250 hot spots available to all students that allow each student to connect their Navajo-Prep issued laptop to the internet. However, we understand that these hot spots do not provide adequate service in all areas, and we are troubleshooting connectivity in our more rural communities. Navajo Prep is investigating the feasibility of an online learning environment that is accessible to all students for future planning.

At this point, we are scheduled to resume all classes as normal on April 6, as well as maintain the current academic calendar. This means that all previously scheduled events such as graduation, and the last day of school will continue as planned. Our current academic calendar was built to support an emergency school closure (i.e. snow days), so there are no concerns about adjusting the calendar to meet student instructional hour requirements.

Our school’s priority continues to be the safety of our students and staff. We will continue to communicate frequently as we monitor any changes in this public health crisis. All information will be shared through email and is posted immediately to our website. We are working in a rapidly changing environment, and ask for your flexibility as we amend our plan on short notice.

Sincerely,

Shawna Allison Becenti,  
Head of School