

Dear Lee-Scott Academy Family,

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” Thomas Paine wrote those words when he crafted his document *The Crisis*. He wasn’t talking about the COVID-19 outbreak, but he very well could have been. There’s no doubt we as a country - state - community are facing challenges that we have never faced in our lifetime. It seems the virus is causing more than medical challenges - even education has been affected. We have transitioned to remote learning, our campus is deserted, and words like “physical distancing” are now common in our daily conversations.

Yesterday afternoon Governor Ivey announced that the state’s K-12 schools will not return to their classrooms this academic year. This morning, Dr. Scott Harris, Director of Alabama Department of Public Health, has extended the closure of independent schools through April 17, 2020. Out of an abundance of care for our students, their families, and our faculty, to stay true to our mission to provide a safe environment, and to be good citizens, Lee-Scott Academy will be closed through April 17, 2020. This is not the news we wanted to hear! In the coming days, we will continue to share information with you as quickly as we can. Please be patient with us as this situation is an unprecedented circumstance.

I believe every cloud has a silver lining. While during this anxious time it may be difficult to see a silver lining, I have been able to identify a couple. The first is I am very proud of the way our school community is rallying together in these difficult circumstances. We are doing everything possible to support our parents, faculty and students, and I’ve been amazed by the patience and flexibility of our LSA Family. Our faculty are providing remote instruction through new digital technologies and they are doing an outstanding job. Our students are adapting well to the non-traditional classrooms, and we are providing multiple resources to assist them during this time. The second is that this crisis is bringing out the very best in the Lee-Scott Family.

Our priority right now is focused on our seniors - the class of 2020! Seniors, I want to personally let you know that this is not how any of us expected your senior year to end. We have all looked forward to the Junior/Senior Prom where we get to see you dressed in high style, Senior Awards Day with the amazing video highlighting each of you and your friends, Baccalaureate where we pray over you as you go into this world to be the salt and light, and, of course, Graduation where we send you off to new places; Oh! The places you will go! I am so incredibly proud of you and the way you and your families are handling this situation. We will celebrate you, surrounded by faculty, family, and friends, and look forward to being able to plan that special event for you and your classmates!

The administrative staff is working to make sure Lee-Scott Academy stays focused on students’ social-emotional well-being, academic growth, physical development and spiritual discipleship. Again, plans change and a lot of uncertainty surrounds this situation. We will continue to communicate with our students and families as information and plans become available in the coming days.

As we continue to take care of our school community, please know we’re thinking about you and your family as you navigate the uncertainty ahead. In the coming weeks and months, it is most important for us all to support each other and focus on the health and safety of our loved ones. I’m confident we will get through this and be even stronger on the other side.

Sincerely and Go Warriors!

Dr. Stan Cox

Head of School