



Virtual Learning Starts Next Week, March 23.

Dear Promise Support Network,

Promise Academy cultivates **wise, creative, and compassionate leaders** through exemplary, Christ-centered education in North Tyler, for the joy of our city and the glory of GOD.

How does a school like ours need to respond to a global, national, and local event like the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

This calls for *wisdom*. We want to be proactive to do our part to slow the spread of the virus and protect our community. **Social distancing is one of the best preventative methods against the spread of a virus like COVID-19 .** For this reason, Promise Academy made the proactive choice to extend Spring Break for students through Friday, March 20. Being an ever evolving situation, we are following reports from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Net-Health and other agencies. **Based on the most recent advice of NETHealth, Promise will remain closed for the next couple of weeks with online/distance learning beginning Tuesday, March 24 and continuing through April 3 with the hope of returning to the classroom on April 6.**

This calls for *compassion*. We have encouraged our families to share with their children **why we take all these precautions: to love our neighbors.** We are working to protect not only ourselves, but those in our community who are most likely to be hurt by this illness: the elderly, very young, and those with any respiratory weaknesses. We know that there are many implications for our families including childcare, time off work, and the meals they depend on from school. **Even though Promise is a private school, know that our students who qualify for free and reduced lunch are able to utilize the current TISD meal pick-up programs.**

This calls for *creativity*. Extending Spring Break was a hard and serious decision. Remaining closed for the coming weeks is a sad but prudent choice. Every scholar's presence in their classroom is of highest importance and the learning each scholar experiences daily with their classmates and teacher is vital. These are circumstances that need our best problem-solving efforts. Our teachers are preparing for continuing learning outside the classroom and getting ready for "e-learning" from home. **While the students have this extended Spring Break, Promise teachers and staff have been working to ensure as little learning time is lost as possible.**

We have communicated with all of our families and praise be to God every Promise family has or has been connected with the necessary tech and supplies to continue learning at home. We will be reaching out to families weekly to keep in touch

This calls for *leaders* who work for the good and safety of everyone in our community. That is who we are at Promise. You are a Promise too. **This is a great opportunity for us to lead our families and community to love and serve one another without fear.**

We know that GOD's promises do not change or fail with the circumstances around us. He is always with us and promises to be close to those who are suffering. "GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

How you can help...

Pray for Promise...

Students. There are a lot of question marks over the coming weeks and that can be scary for kids. Join us in praying for peace in the hearts of our students. Promise is a school and we are committed to moving our students forward in their education. Pray for diligence for our students to continue in their learning at home. We believe in the value of face to face education but are grateful for what technology will allow us to do during this time.

Parents. Many of our families will find themselves with less work or without childcare during this time. Please pray for provision for the physical needs of our families and the wisdom for our Promise parents to lead their families through this lean time. Pray for all the wonderful assistance programs in Tyler that are working diligently to implement creative solutions that will help parents and families all across Smith County.

Teachers. Our teachers are working diligently to create online lessons as we prepare for home learning in these coming weeks. Pray for their preparations and implementation of a hybrid education utilizing technology as well as paper packet assignments.

Staff. Many of our administrative staff are part time and hourly. It is a goal to keep up their usual hours and there are certainly projects to be done. Pray for financial provision during this time.

For the joy of our city and the glory of GOD,

Sarah Cumming
Head of School