

**Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

Greetings from Montezuma,



In the interest of keeping our community connected and informed, I am writing to let you know that we will be communicating weekly with all members of the UWC-USA family. Additional communication will occur to specific groups as the need arises, but we want to assure you that you can expect general updates once a week until further notice. We will be sending these updates out every Tuesday--starting today!

Here are some general updates:

- San Miguel County announced its first case of COVID-19 last week; as of this writing, there is still only one case. There are no reported cases of COVID-19 among our UWC-USA students or employees.
- Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham has issued a stay-at-home order for non-essential businesses and nonprofits.
- UWC-USA is not closed; because we are still in session, we do not fall under non-essential businesses and nonprofits. We are, however, transitioning to online instead of on-campus learning. As such, we are committed to keeping our employees fully employed, focusing on remote work where possible and social distancing compliance when employees need to be on campus. We also have a daily check-in protocol to monitor the health of all coming onto campus. In short, we are doing our part in New Mexico's strategy to "flatten the curve."
- All students are now off campus and only one student is still enroute. The remaining students are at home, with relatives, or with host families. We are monitoring student health from a distance and encourage students to continue to report on their health.
- Faculty are working around the clock preparing for online learning to start March 30. They have agreed on common platforms to make it as easy as possible for students.
- We are looking into options to continue our experiential education programs online as well. There will be more information from Dean of Students Naomi Swinton next week.
- The IB has cancelled the IB exam for this spring. As the IB provides more information, our communication next week will contain more details from Dean of Academics Alexis Mamaux.
- As we have said from the beginning, we will continue to coordinate with any parents and students who wish for their students to go home. This includes students currently placed with host families who now want to travel home.

It's difficult to express the gratitude that all of us feel for the ways our community has risen to the challenge facing us. Faculty are working tirelessly to prepare for a new kind of educational interaction, current parents and alumni opened their homes to students who could not travel home, our staff came together to make sure our students had as smooth a transition as possible off campus, and our students acted with maturity and grace. We are all trying to

absorb the information that is changing daily, but we are rising to the occasion and adjusting. I am reminded of a quote from our founder, Kurt Hahn, and so I share it with you here.

“There is more in you than you think.”

Let’s each of us remember this about ourselves in the days ahead, and let’s expect it of one another, too.

More next week--and a virtual hug,

Victoria

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