February 25, 2020

Dear York School Parents and Guardians,

We continue to be grateful that our community is as healthy as usual despite the inevitable seasonal flu and colds going around campus. To keep our communication open, we want to give you an update on what we’re doing regarding coronavirus news.

As of Tuesday, February 25, we have no reported cases of the virus in Monterey County. Today, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a statement that suggests the virus is likely to spread throughout the United States following news that it is spreading through Europe and the Middle East.

Given this update, we are actively preparing for how we would respond if the virus began to spread in our county.

While the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) do not make recommendations for wearing masks for our community profile, we do have enough unopened 3M N95 masks on campus for our entire community. We also have spoken with students repeatedly about how to maintain healthy hygiene during flu season. Washing hands well is the single most important message we need to continue to deliver.

We don’t expect a temporary school closure, but we are prepared for one if we determine that doing so would be in the best interest in the health of our community. Teachers and students know how to conduct classes online using Haiku and G-Suite. We have already delivered training to our faculty on how to conduct class activities remotely in real-time using our video conference platform Google Meet. We will support that training with more sessions in the coming days.

As we have stated in the past, the best thing we all can do is practice routine flu prevention techniques. Wash hands, keep germs from spreading, get plenty of sleep, eat healthy meals, exercise, and stay home if you have flu symptoms.

If there is any good news regarding this virus, it’s that the fatality rate is low compared to similar historic global threats. If we did end up having to close school, we would do so to help protect the most vulnerable members of our county.
As of now, we continue to enjoy the sunny hilltop at York with a watchful eye on the health of every cherished member of our community. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We are so glad they’re here.

Kevin Brookhouser
Safety Director, York School