



SAINT ANN'S SCHOOL

Hannah Swacker Kurnit '97
Director of Alumni Relations

Dear Saint Ann's Alumni,

I am writing to give you an update on Saint Ann's School's response to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) as it pertains to our students, faculty, staff, and programs.

Head of School Vince Tompkins announced on March 12 that beginning immediately, our school would implement a distance learning model in all divisions and departments that will continue at least through Friday, March 27. Since that time, New York City has announced the closure of all public schools until April 20 and Saint Ann's will therefore be operating remotely through that date. The school continues to monitor this rapidly evolving crisis as it affects our community and the school's operations.

A few excerpts from Vince's letter to current families, faculty and staff from Thursday, March 12:

After consulting with the Board of Trustees last night, assessing the readiness of our school to provide various forms of synchronous and asynchronous learning, and carefully weighing my responsibility for the health and safety of the Saint Ann's community and our school's broader social obligation in the face of a confirmed global pandemic, I have decided that this is the best course of action.

With every fiber of our being we want to be here with our students. That is what defines us as a school. We are doing our best to translate that longing into the energy required to embark on a learning experiment that we have never before attempted. That said, we know that remote learning cannot replicate the experience of being in a Saint Ann's classroom, nor can we expect of either teachers or students that in these early days these new ways of interacting will feel natural. In all of our discussions with faculty our goal has been clarity about our expectations while also emphasizing that there will be room for flexibility, adjustments, and the same creativity that have always defined a Saint Ann's education.

We know that serious challenges abound for working parents, for teachers, for students who want desperately to see everyday routines sustained. We have made every effort to identify students who needed to borrow devices or needed help getting access to the internet. We have taken steps to address the concerns of our hourly employees who might otherwise have faced a drop in income.

I am grateful in this confusing and complicated moment to be a member of such an extraordinary community, and I am confident that we will do all we can to support one another in the weeks ahead.

All information regarding our planning and communications around COVID-19 can be found [on our website here](#).

Wishing all of you, near and far, good health. Please feel free to email me at hkurnit@saintannsny.org.

Love,