

MILTON ACADEMY

— DARE TO BE TRUE —

Dear Families and Upper School Students,

As our world adjusts to the unprecedented realities of this global pandemic, we continue to balance the health and safety needs of our community and our mission to provide students with an excellent education. With this in mind, and with heavy hearts, we make the difficult decision to extend our remote-learning program through the end of the academic year.

We must also modify our plans for Graduation and Reunion Weekend. There will be a virtual ceremony to celebrate our graduating seniors on Friday, June 5, and we commit to further honoring the Class of 2020 at a later date. Reunion Weekend will be postponed to June 2021. Additional details on both events are forthcoming. While disappointing for many reasons, these decisions are in the best interest of our School and our broader community.

To our graduating seniors, I am profoundly sorry. We know this represents a heartbreaking loss for all students, particularly for those of you in the Class of 2020. This is not the senior year that any of us imagined for you. Those of you who fulfill your diploma requirements will graduate at the end of the spring semester. Please know that your achievements will not go unrecognized.

So much has been asked of our students in recent weeks—more than young people should have to face in the course of their school lives. As educators, we celebrate when students grasp new concepts and deepen their understanding of a topic; it is equally exciting to us when we see them grow in their confidence and ability to rise to challenges year after year. This independence, we know, prepares them well to navigate life's complexities and solve problems on their own.

And yet, they are children entrusted to our care. They look to us for leadership in this moment, a responsibility of utmost importance. We face a community challenge that requires a community solution, one that calls us to make difficult choices to protect the health and safety of our students, our faculty and staff, our families, and our society at large.

It is nothing short of extraordinary to witness the ways in which people have demonstrated perseverance and ingenuity as our world navigates this uncharted territory. From healthcare professionals treating patients around the clock to grocery workers meeting historic demand with patience and kindness—all at the expense of their own safety—people everywhere have responded to this crisis with a commitment to humanity and community that should inspire us all.

Community is both a foundation and function of our School. We work all year to build a collective understanding of what it means to be Milton, we consider our responsibilities to one another and the world around us, and we honor the differences and individual contributions that make us strong. This uncertain, uncomfortable time has challenged us to alter and expand our sense of community. Milton teachers, confronting this enormous, global challenge, pivoted immediately to building a virtual School; their devotion to connecting with students is as strong

as ever. Although remote learning is no replacement for the vibrant energy of classes together, and we are deeply saddened to miss all the games, events, and activities that are the hallmarks of spring on our campus, be assured that we are still—as always—Milton.

Each principal will follow this message with division-specific information, including their initial plans for year-end celebrations. We understand that many will have logistical questions regarding this closure. Anticipating those, we have compiled a list of [frequently asked questions](#) and answers for students and families.

We look forward to gathering together as a Milton community once again, and to the joy and celebration that day will bring.

Sincerely,

Todd B. Bland
Head of School