Dear Parents and Students,

As we approach the end of April and the culminating weeks of the academic calendar, I want to update you on our plans to conclude the school year. As you can well understand, some details must await developments at the state and local level. You will find listed below key dates and events marking the end of the school year, which will all be conducted virtually unless otherwise noted. In the next few weeks, divisional offices will provide additional information about attending or accessing these events.

Let me take a quick but important moment to thank you for your fierce commitment to learning. As a Bulldog community, we consider academic excellence one of our hallmarks. Yet, we always elevate character above academics, and this sustained drive to keep learning, despite the challenges that the pandemic poses, shows the resolute character of our students — their resilience, drive, and unquenchable curiosity. I am amazed at their accomplishments, thankful for the faculty’s spirit of innovation, and so profoundly appreciative of the support provided by our parent community. Thank you, parents, for the desire to learn that you have instilled in your children, and for all you are doing to sustain their growth and development in partnership with our faculty.

At this point, we can provide the following timeline:

**Class of 2020 – Exam Schedule**

- English and History final assessments will be projects or final papers.
- Seniors earning a 92 or higher for the second semester are exempt from their math, world language, and/or science exams.
- Tuesday, May 12: Exam review
- Wednesday, May 13: Math exam, 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, May 14: World Language exam, 9-11 a.m.
- Friday, May 15: Science exam, 9-11 a.m. **Final day for Seniors.**
- Conflict exams will be coordinated with individual teachers.

**Students in Grades 7-11 – Exam Schedule**

- English and History final assessments will be projects or final papers. These and final exams will count 20% of the second semester grade.
- Tuesday, May 26: Exam review
- Wednesday, May 27: Math exam, 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, May 28: World Language exam, 9-11 a.m.
- Friday, May 29: Science exam, 9-11 a.m.
- Conflict exams will be coordinated with individual teachers.
Other Key Events:

- Senior Speech Finals — May 15 at 11:30 a.m.
- Tunstall Awards — May 21, Time TBD
- 9th Grade Speech Finals — May 26 at 12 noon
- 9th Grade Awards — May 28, Time TBD
- Lower School Awards for Grades 1-5 (by Homeroom) — May 27, Times TBD
- 6th Grade Closing Exercises — Friday, May 29 at 3:00 p.m.
- Final day of classes for students in Grades 1-11 — Friday, May 29
- Graduation Honoring the Class of 2020 (on-campus) — July 26 (Backup date — December 20)

Sadly, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the first three weeks of Summer at the Academy, at least as they are currently structured. We will continue to explore the possibility of offering high-quality virtual camps, or even on-site programs that abide by state guidelines in place at the time. We will keep you updated as our plans for the summer materialize, and hope that we are still able to offer a partial summer experience beginning July 6. Also, please be on the lookout in the coming weeks for information about other exciting summer offerings.

We are working on plans to allow families back onto campus to gather their children’s belongings, and to allow textbook buybacks and the return of books, uniforms, and other school materials still in their possession. We will communicate a timeline and procedure for that process as soon as we have finalized it. Distribution of yearbooks will occur during these times, too.

As we draw this communication to a close, it is tempting to linger over deprivations we are having to suffer and endure. Rather, I’d ask you to turn your thoughts in the opposite direction – to reflect on how you, our students and parents, constantly buoy each other and our faculty, and how remarkable your resiliency, strength of character, positive energy and attitude are. These are qualities you continue to summon, display, and share so freely and supportively. Even at these imposed distances, we are indeed blessed to have each other and to be able to cherish the connections from which we derive untold benefit. Please know that we believe in you, we admire and draw strength from your selflessness and determination, and we hold steadfast to the faith that you will carry us all the way through and to the other side of this challenging time. May God bless you, keep you safe and well, and extend grace over our school and community.

Yours affectionately,

Dennis G. Manning
Headmaster