



RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY

MICHAEL C. STARLING

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, USMC (RETIRED)

COMMANDANT OF CADETS

Class of 1988

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First, I'd like to thank all of you for the expedient departure from campus when we initiated our emergency action plan. Though it was short notice and most likely inconvenient, you were instrumental in making that process successful and preserving the health and safety of your students and our entire campus community.

The result: in 120 hours, that community, some 500 families of students, faculty, and staff, dispersed to stand up R-MA's first-ever virtual classroom environment. Even better, to our knowledge, we have all remained virus-free to this point. Your timely and rapid response ensured that happened and, I'm sure, saved lives!

Second, we're 12 days into "Virtual R-MA." Initial reports indicate that our students are actively engaged in their school activities - classes, mentoring, clubs, CLS engagement, competitions and fitness options. Please encourage your child to remain engaged.

Third, I have received a few inquiries about accessing dorm rooms to collect personal belongings. Given the Governor's recent Executive Orders that restrict travel and gathering, the campus remains closed for the foreseeable future. As soon as feasible, and in accordance with the Executive Orders, we will announce a plan and timeline for retrieving personal belongings and returning school property and uniforms. I'd ask for your understanding and cooperation, as well as your continued confidence, that we'll offer the best plan for us all to remain safe.

Lastly, as we continue on with the challenges of COVID-19, remember to keep surfaces clean, frequently wash hands, continue social distancing, and reduce your travel from home.

Here are a few visuals I found effective. Please share it with your family and students.

- Article and graphics on impacts of [social distancing](#) (from Washington Post March 14)
- Videos on thorough [handwashing](#) and handling of [Groceries/purchases](#)

This unusual time is an endurance event. Discipline to routine and good habits help.
All the best to you and your family!

There are only 6 days until Spring Break and less than 40 days from Spring Break until the end of the school year.

Hang in there!

Mike Starling