



April 1, 2020

Dear Finn Families-

As the current situation continues to evolve daily, it is a priority for the school to keep you informed of changes and updates. It is our hope that these updates help to clarify, as best possible, our plan to optimize this learning time away from the physical school and each other. While we continue to recognize and appreciate every family's unique situation and needs, we are charged as a school to continue to provide learning opportunities and connections, even during this troubling time. We value your effort and support in doing this and want to remind you that we are truly all in this together and will need to continue to learn from one another as we proceed through this situation.

**Remote Learning/Technology Support:**

We understand that there was very little time to adjust and acclimate to the various platforms that are being utilized to continue to engage your scholars academically and social-emotionally, and appreciate your patience and willingness to dive into uncharted waters with us. We are working to design a live or recorded support to assist families with accessing Google Classroom and other online learning platforms, so that you feel better prepared to work with your scholar. Additional information regarding this training/support will be forthcoming. In the interim, please continue to stay connected with your child's teachers for support. We will continue to streamline the platforms being utilized, to help limit the stress of accessing multiple platforms and forums.

**Spring Break (previously scheduled April 6-April 13):**

- Based on the new NYS Education Department requirement for school districts, and guidance from our authorizer, we will continue with remote learning throughout our previously scheduled spring break. We encourage families to have their scholars actively participate, to the extent possible, except for Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th; which will be reserved as "no school" days.
- Breakfast and lunch food pick-up will continue through spring break with the current schedule of pick-up days being Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am.
- The majority of this week's work will be continued engagement and connecting with scholars and families and sharing ideas for continued learning and skill development.

**2020-2021 Transportation Request Deadline:**

- The deadline to submit transportation request forms to your district of residence has been extended from April 1st to April 15th. Please ensure that you submit your request directly to your district of residence; the forms for Horseheads and Elmira City residents are attached.



### 2020-2021 Enrollment:

- The enrollment application deadline to be included in a lottery remains April 1st; we will notify families if there is a need for a lottery, and when that will take place via mailed letter.
- Please email (info@finnacademy.com), fax (607-398-7908), or mail (610 Lake Street) enrollment applications, if interested
- If your child is already enrolled in this current academic year, his/her enrollment is rolled over into next year's, unless you choose to withdraw your child.

### Phase 2 – Extended Closure Plan:

The current Executive Order from Governor Cuomo states that schools will be closed until April 15th, however, as this situation continues to evolve, we are actively working to update our remote learning/distance learning plan for the possibility of a long-term closure (phase 2). Should the closure be extended, we will be looking to ramp up our efforts to deliver high quality education to all scholars. We will look to increase and improve the supports, structure, and scholar engagement for the remote learning experiences. We will also be working diligently to provide equitable access and supports daily to ensure continuity of learning for all. Guidance on timing and scheduling for lessons and activities will be shared with increased expectations for scholar participation in daily remote learning. Work that is assigned will not just review and reinforce previous knowledge and skills; rather, it will be new content needed to meet grade level expectations and standards. The new content your child's teachers provide will continue throughout our closure, as ordered by the Governor. We have a transition period for this and have a planned start on **April 14th**. In order to support parents/guardians in helping scholars to be engaged in learning, daily learning may become less about live sessions, and more about recorded or online material that may be completed with flexibility during the day.

### Laptop Loan Program:

- If closure is extended, we will provide laptops to families have confirmed are in need of technology for their scholars. We will share laptop pick-up dates/times/location, should this be necessary. If you have not yet shared with your child's teacher a need for technology, please do so in the upcoming days. We will also work with families to provide information on various internet connectivity supports through local organizations, if needed.

Thank you for your continued partnership, and please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, thoughts, or requests for support. As always, stay well.

Best,

*Aimee Ciarlo*

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Dean of Scholars