March 12, 2020

Dear BLS Families:

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) deepens its presence in our lives, we want to share what we know to date and how it impacts our school community, as well as to provide you with some guidance as you navigate what is best for your family.

Boston Latin School is part of the Boston Public Schools and as such we follow protocols set by the district, which in turn follows the advice and regulations set by the Boston and Massachusetts Public Health Commissions. This is a fluid situation; what we forward today is subject to change. We do not know what will evolve, but we are committed to providing you with timely updates.

**Precautions:** Our custodians have stepped up efforts to clean bathrooms and high touch areas, such as door knobs and frames, and have been provided with extra cleaning supplies and disinfectants to do so. Additional sanitizing stations have been placed in strategic areas. To ensure that our bathrooms remain adequately stocked, our custodians report every day to the Boston Health Commission. Custodians have cleaned all surfaces and have sprayed large public spaces with disinfectant.

The district has also been in close communication with our team of nurses, providing guidance on how best to assess students and to identify isolation areas in any case of potential illness.

**Travel, Field Trips, and Athletics:** The Boston Public Schools has canceled all international and domestic travel, as well as local field trips. We realize that off-site experiences truly enrich our students’ education, but we appreciate this safety measure. Those families who have already paid in advance for travel have been notified, and BLS staff has been working to recoup some of these payments. It has just been announced that all MIAA spring sports, including all practices and activities, are postponed until March 30.

**Attendance and School Closure:** If the city and the district do make the decision to cancel school, all families will be notified through automated calls, text, email, and news outlets. We know that this decision will not be made lightly and will balance the needs of many. If you decide as a family that you would prefer that your child remain at home, we ask that you please inform the school in advance by submitting this form. Even if you already notified us today, we are now requiring families to use this form so that all of the information is centralized. Students will be marked excused absent, which allows them to make up assignments with no penalty. Given the uncertainty and unprecedented nature of this situation, we are unable to provide information about on-line learning at this time, but encourage students who are at home to check Google Classroom, teacher web pages, and their own BPS email if available, and to contact teachers via email if needed.
We thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation during these uncertain times and wish you and your family good health.

Sincerely,

Rachel Skerritt '95
Headmaster