



CLASSICAL ACADEMY

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1255 Main Avenue Clifton NJ 07011

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

April 10, 2020

Dear Classical Academy Community,

COVID-19 may have prompted us to close down the school building, but we fervently continue to move forward to do everything we can to fulfill our responsibilities to our students. It remains our goal, as always, to keep our students at the “front and center.” Moreover, while there have been an insurmountable number of tasks and urgent duties imposed on the administration and faculty as a result of this pandemic, I am proud to announce that my office team and our teachers rose to the occasion in a most commendable and highly efficient manner. I publicly “applaud” their diligent efforts and encourage you to thank these stalwart educators and staff members when we return to our school site.

Please know that we at Classical Academy are genuinely committed to providing clarity and planning proactively and conscientiously as we navigate our way through this current pandemic.

Briefly, I would like to take the time in this letter to share with you some of the notable efforts put into action quickly, calmly, and expertly to meet the academic, physical, and emotional well being of our school community.

- Team Approach - With daily updates and directives from the NJDOE, local, and county health officials, the administrative team has been and continues to meet consistently to obtain factual information in a timely manner. Regular meetings are held and tasks are shared among myself, Mr. Indar, Nurse Robinson, Mr. Arias, and Ms. Rodriguez accordingly. Mr. Arias and Ms. Rodriguez have been a much needed “extra set of hands.” They are the driving force that has put together academic files for our students and for ensuring that all students are receiving daily instructional resources. They also have maintained the daily food service program for eligible students. A “big thank you” to Mr. Arias and Ms. Rodriguez for being the instrumental catalyst behind the continuation of these essential services.
- Keeping it Clean! - Mr. Caruso, our current maintenance supervisor took on the Herculean task of providing continuous sanitation in the building. While the school closed for instruction commencing March 13, we have had vendors, visitors, and limited staff in the building. Heightened deep cleaning services have been maintained daily. In addition, Mr. Caruso is making minor repairs and painting public areas of the building so that upon return to the building, our students, teachers, and staff will enter into a bright, freshly painted school. A “sparkling thank you” goes out to Mr. Caruso for his contribution to create a clean slate.
- Classical Cares - Working in collaboration, Nurse Robinson, Mr. Indar and I have been composing a compendium of Social-Emotional Learning activities. Although we cannot control the negative COVID circumstance that has occurred, we do have the power to promote a positive

response and to band together to holistically support and sustain the emotional well-being of our school community. There is a rainbow of hope rising from the COVID storm here at Classical. Stay tuned for some awesome activities we are planning remotely and virtually for our school community. “A heart warming” thank you goes out to Mr. Indar and Nurse Robinsion for sharing their expertise and choosing to make a difference for students beyond the academic realm.

- To Technology and Beyond - I would be most remiss to not acknowledge the “behind the scenes” hard working efforts of Mrs. Indar, our IT and school technology coordinator. She literally “connected” the Classical Community with lightning speed working to ensure that no one was left behind and that we could all have the opportunity to communicate. You deserve a special ‘Java’ thanks for this Ms. Indar!

I recognize that the “new normal” by which our school community is operating under, may be far from perfect and is truly a “work in progress.” To this end, I also most gratefully thank you - our students, parents, and members of the Classical community for your patience and understanding as we all make the transition to distance learning. In the spirit of Prometheus, our school mascot let us fearlessly embrace this new challenge in a blaze of ambitious glory!

Yours in Good Health,

Mrs. Giordano.
Lead School Administrator