



DR. BRIAN N. GUENTHER
PRESIDENT

March 16, 2020

San Marcos Baptist Academy Families, Faculty, and Staff,

San Marcos Academy must postpone normal operations until noon on April 5, 2020. Following Spring Break, SMA will move to a distance learning platform. Faculty who are symptom free are welcome to either return to campus or stay home to manage their students' learning. Essential staff, as determined by the Executive Council, will be asked to report to work unless they are required to self-isolate. Resident students are asked to continue their distance learning at home, if possible. Should resident students have no option other than to return to campus at the end of Spring Break, they will be assessed and instructed on interim housing requirements beginning at noon on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

Information regarding distance learning will be generated from the Academic Dean's office and will be communicated to all families. All questions regarding specific classes should first be directed to the faculty member beginning on Monday, March 23, 2020, and then to the appropriate dean's office.

Further information regarding resident students will be generated from the Dean of Residential Life's office. Resident students will receive the same distance learning information and requirements from the Academic Dean.

San Marcos Academy administration will continue to closely monitor local, county, state, and federal decisions regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). I have been in contact with and receive daily updates from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Commissioner Morath's office. Additionally, I have worked with our State accrediting agencies, the Accreditation Commission of the Texas Association of Baptist Schools (ACTABS) and the Texas Private Schools Association (TPSA). Our main concern is the health and safety of our students, families, faculty, and staff. As you can understand, being both a day and boarding school requires a multi-faceted approach when making the safest decisions for our campus.

Shortly after a combined press conference on March 15, 2020, where Hays County and the City of San Marcos declared a state of disaster, our local school districts (San Marcos CISD, Wimberley ISD, Hays CISD, and Dripping Springs ISD) announced postponed operations until April. Because SMA has students, faculty, and staff from around the region and the world, it is important for us to take proactive and protective measures that are in line with our local communities. Meanwhile, we must continue to meet the needs of those students who are unable to return home due to closed or banned travel and/or other family situations in the safest manner.

I thank you for your patience and grace as we tread into unfamiliar challenges. I ask that you join us in praying for our community, state, and national leaders as they make these decisions for our country. My continued prayer is, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" (Psalm 91:1-2 NIV).

In Christ Alone,

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