



Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

1034 N. Wells Chicago, Illinois 60610

773.534.0039 (w) 773.534.0035 (f) www.wpcp.org



Tim Devine
tpdevine@cps.edu

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Dear Grizzlies—Students, Faculty, and Parents,

Hello, everyone! As you know, the Governor has declared that schools will remain physically closed for the remainder of this academic year and, instead, will continue in the remote learning environment. I suspect that we all understand the rationale for this decision, though it means that we won't physically be together in our daily community at 1034 N. Wells.

It is completely known that our students come to Payton every day for far more than to tend to your 7 academic classes; that you find purpose, energy, and growth in many different spaces and times on campus: in Advisory, during enrichments and seminar, in athletic and academic teams, in clubs. Each day, Payton is a beehive of enlivened and purposeful activity. Additionally, we fully know that there are good and important social dynamics that occur on campus; that being on campus allows you time to develop what are likely to be lasting and important friendships, and to be mentored by teachers in academic and life matters. That all changes in a remote learning environment. That said, our wonderful faculty—classroom teachers, Diverse Learner teachers, Counselors, Social Worker, Psychologist, Nurse, and others—are available during the scheduled class times and during office hours. You are welcome and encouraged to engage with them. Yes. It is in a different, virtual mode, but our faculty are available through June 17th to offer guidance and support. We will carry forth with our remote learning plan.

And, seniors, it is fully understood that a number of exciting traditions and life moments are impacted as you enter the final quarter of your senior year...traditions that you have been rightfully, eagerly looking forward to...namely: prom, senior luncheon, and graduation. I am sorry that those events will need to change. Mr. Chau, our Director of the Senior Steering Committee, will be working in short order with seniors and parents to identify ways to honor and mark your time as Grizzlies. Yes. The events will be different than we expected, but we will honor you this Spring and, if social distancing and event gathering rules are removed, we will look for opportunity to gather us together as a community, to share time and space together sometime in the summer so that we can formally be together...and to celebrate. Be on the lookout for communications from Mr. Chau.

A few additional notes for everyone:

- Payton continues to be a food distribution site from Monday-Friday, between 9:00am-1:00pm. You are welcome to stop by to get breakfast and lunch bags.
- If you have any technological questions, please be in contact with Mr. Dvorak (dbdvorak@cps.edu) and Mr. Xu (wxu2@cps.edu)
- If you have items remaining on campus (e.g. in your locker), they will remain there until such time the Governor and Mayor say that students can return to campus. At such time, we will communicate dates and times for students to gather any items.

- Similarly, please keep safe any Payton-issued items (e.g. textbooks) that are with you at your home. We will determine times and dates for the return of those items.

With Grizzly pride,

Mr. Devine