



## To our dedicated and passionate First State Squash community,

These past few weeks have brought upon us challenges our students, their families and First State Squash have yet to face. Just as we have reiterated our affection and care to our team members, we wish to do the same for the thoughtful network of individuals that have guided First State Squash. I hope this note finds you and your families healthy and safe.

In response to COVID-19, First State Squash has been proactive in providing students with wraparound youth development services. Upon initial team member and family intakes and a review of our partner school's student expectations, we have identified the following critical resources that our First State Squash team will offer over the coming weeks:

### **Nurturing Relationships**

Essential to maintaining our mission will be the individualized connections we make with students and families. We will continue to prioritize staying in consistent communication with participants for the weeks and months to come, to care for our students and keep our bonds of mentorship and support strong.

### **Maintaining Academic Excellence**

Amidst change, our belief in our students' ability to be academically successful has remained steadfast. After ensuring our students have access to their remote academic materials and devices, we have begun hosting weekly group and individualized tutoring sessions via ZOOM (or the phone) to offer homework support. We remain in close contact with schools and teachers so that our organization can thoughtfully adapt over time to best ensure the well-being and academic success of our team members.

### **Collaborative Enrichment**

First State Squash will continue with our literacy-based curriculum. One exciting

development: FSS is currently piloting a weekly collaboration with University of Delaware Professor, David Teague and his students to conduct a creative writing seminar for FSS students this Spring.

I have been incredibly grateful to our board and our larger First State Squash community who are helping us navigate these uncharted waters. Your insights and generosity during this critical time are greatly appreciated. I promise to remain in close touch and provide future updates about our students' progress over the coming weeks. Thank you all for your genuine interest in First State Squash and your belief in the work we do for the Wilmington community.

**With gratitude,**

**Team First State Squash**

Visit our  
website

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