



March 15, 2021

Dear Webb Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your families well, as we settle into our spring semester and begin shoring up our plans for the end of the school year. Like all of you, we are heartened by the good news that the pandemic has continued to lessen over the past few weeks. In Los Angeles County and across the country, COVID-19 case rates have fallen substantially since late-January. Closer to home, we feel fortunate that as of today 80% of Webb faculty and staff are on track for their initial vaccination, and we expect many more to be inoculated in the coming weeks.

As we shared in our January update, we promised to make a decision in March regarding the possibility of a full return to campus following Spring Break so that everyone would have time to make appropriate plans. In making this decision, we have continued our work studying shifting public health agencies' guidelines issued from the State of California and Los Angeles County, and also by consulting with our own Medical Advisory Board. In addition, we have repeatedly reached out to our local, regional and state elected officials for additional guidance regarding our plans for returning to campus. In a recent communication from the director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, we've been instructed not to open our residential facilities this spring. Given all these factors, as we look to implement the final phase of our gradual reopening, we are forced to confront the very unfortunate reality that current protocols do not allow us to open our dorms to boarders this academic year.

In reviewing how to best meet the needs of all boarding and day students and families, and to provide continuity and ensure the excellence of our educational program through June, we have decided to continue all academic courses online as currently scheduled—while enhancing and adding to our on-campus student programming following Spring Break.

With this decision in mind, we make three important commitments to you:

- 1) We will continue to provide the highest-quality online educational program for all students locally, across the country and around the world through June.
- 2) We will expand our on-campus programming so that students who are able to participate have the opportunity to enjoy more aspects of the Webb program. Again, these enhancements will begin after Spring Break and include such items as **expanded afternoon activity programming, access to science lab and art studio facilities, Library & Hooper study group rotations, increased access to athletic competitions and more.** As always, our expansion will continue to be dependent on shifting state and local public health guidelines and final review by our Medical Advisory Board. We will send more details on this expansion, including information about how to sign-up for post Spring Break programs on Tuesday, March 23. **In the meantime, students who are not currently participating in on-campus programs who would like to join after Spring Break should email [tsmith@webb.org](mailto:tsmith@webb.org) by Friday, March 19.**

3) Finally, we look forward to honoring our end-of-year traditions. We believe these celebrations are critical for our entire community and especially our senior class, who we hope to bring together to stay on campus for a senior trip experience in early June. You can read more here about our current plans regarding this senior trip experience (survey for seniors included) and other end-of-year events such as prom, candlelight ceremonies commencement and more. Our goal is to enable meaningful in-person and virtual participation with each of these offerings.

As we look ahead to the summer and to next year, we are confident that we will be able to offer a full boarding experience for our Junior Scholars Program for rising 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in July and for all Webb students for the 2021-22 academic year.

In closing, [we want to invite you to join us for a webinar on Thursday, March 18 at 7:15 pm PT](#) to learn more about our current plans and offer the opportunity to ask questions. You can also find answers to frequently asked questions [here](#). In the meantime, we thank you for your continued partnership as we head into the final months of the academic year.

Sincerely,

Taylor Stockdale  
Head of Schools

Theresa Smith, Ph.D.  
Associate Head of Schools