

March 27th, 2020, 6:35 PM

Dear MYIS Families

Wow! We are at the end of our second week of Distance Learning and I am so happy to hear from teachers that routines are established and students seem to be adapting well to their new learning environment. In this email, I would like to share with you some clarifications related to distance learning and also the latest updates we have regarding CoVID-19.

CoVID-19

In an email received today from OPEC and ISAT we were notified that all schools in Thailand will be closed "until further notice". We will continue to be guided by their directives and will update you as soon as we learn more.

Yesterday members of our leadership team were in touch with administrators from neighbouring international schools, including ISB, Bangkok Prep, St Andrews, NIST, KIS and Ascott. We are keeping in regular contact and continue to align our understanding and practice regarding the current situation and how we are approaching it as a school. This is an important network for us as together we gain a better perspective on current situations.

Some reminders:

- When leaving your house always wear a mask, even if you are not with other people
- Remind children and yourself of the importance of keeping your hands away from your face.
- Continue to wash your hands and use hand sanitizer every hour
- Use online markets (such as Tops, Villa and the Big C) to order your groceries and have them delivered to avoid unnecessary exposure

Distance Learning: Feedback

Teachers will have shared a schedule with you by now, highlighting the breakup of their day, including when they are Zooming, planning and providing feedback on Seesaw. We understand the need for efficient feedback to be sent to the students, however, teachers need to be balanced in their approach to their new "normal". For this reason, students may not receive feedback for up to 24 hours after their lessons/school work is due to be completed.

Distance Learning: After School Clubs and Transport Fees

We have had a number of enquiries regarding the fees for After School Clubs and also school transport. Ms Da is currently working on the logistics involved in refunding fees for the weeks that the campus has been/will be closed and will be in touch shortly. Please be assured this is being addressed but may take a little time depending on the access we have to the campus over coming weeks.

Distance Learning: Assisting Students

The work that you are doing at home with your students is invaluable and very much appreciated by all of the teachers! As we continue with the Distance Learning Program teachers are reflecting and collaborating into ways that they can adapt the program to be as close to the "on campus" school day as possible. The work that students are doing is an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to teachers meeting the individual needs of their students. We encourage and ask you to help the teachers by allowing the students to work as independently as possible. We understand that they need a varying degree of assistance, particularly in understanding the instructions and what is being asked, but ask that the work that they produce be a true indication of their understanding of the concepts and content being covered by the task.

Gaps in Instruction:

A number of parents have spoken to us with concerns over the gaps that may exist at the beginning of the next year due to this period of Distance Learning. This is a valid concern and one we are all considering as we plan ahead for when we resume school. While students and teachers are working as hard, if not harder than they do during a regular school day, it is impossible to replicate from a distance, what can be achieved face to face. The leadership team are revising the curriculum calendar for the new school year to allow teachers a period of time to revisit the previous grades curriculum and pay attention to "filling the gaps" that the forced school closure created.

One to One Zoom Instruction

Many teachers have received requests from parents for 1:1 teaching and support sessions for their students. Unfortunately, due to Child Safeguarding guidelines, teachers are unable to offer this. All Zoom sessions must have a minimum of 2 students. Teachers are available via email and Seesaw if students need assistance between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm so please reach out and ask for the support and assistance as needed!

Student-Led Conferences...Distance Learning Style

Today you will have received a Google Form asking for you to identify times that you would be available for your child's student-led conference. This year they will look a bit different to the past as we adapt them to operate via the Zoom platform from a distance.

Grades P&U - Grade 4/5

Due to the Distance Learning Program, we are undertaking, students will have tasks set next week that will focus on preparation for their conferences. This is an important element of their school year as it focuses on students applying their skills and work habits that they have focused on throughout the year in order to have the agency needed to lead you through their conference. We hope you enjoy experiencing both sides of the process, both the preparation and the event!

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Feedback Survey

We would love to hear your feedback on how you feel your student's work has gone. Please complete [THIS](#) form (I will also share it in a separate email) and include any questions or concerns you have. I will share the results of this weeks survey in comparison to the first week of Distance Learning, early next week.

I apologise for the long email today! We continue to approach all communication with as much transparency and clarity, and today the result is this extensive update. We hope you are all safe and healthy in your homes and thank you for keeping us up to date should your situation change. Happy Weekend!

Kind regards,

Mel



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