



March 21, 2020

Dear Exploris Community,

I hope this note finds you and your family together and healthy. It has been a week filled with changes, emotions, and adjustments to a new way of working and living together. I am so thankful for the incredible educators who made this transition to digital instruction so quickly. Students and families have also been so supportive and flexible as we are all adjusting to new technology and educational strategies. Together, Exploris teachers and students rocked our core values this week. Teachers and students demonstrated relationships, innovation, social empowerment, and craftsmanship. On yesterday's 1<sup>st</sup> grade Google Meet our children shared their pets with all of us – puppies, guinea pigs, and even a chicken came to class! Of course, this is Exploris. I am so very thankful our community has come together to support the continued academic and social emotional needs of our children as we adjust to new learning environments.

Personally, I am most thankful that my daughter, Rebecca, who was teaching for the last two years in Italy, was out of the country and visiting the US when the COVID-19 cases exploded there. Rebecca has been teaching remotely from NC for almost a month and I have seen how her class has grown together on this new journey. Exploris will continue to fine-tune our online instruction and we will all grow together. We have also welcomed home our son, Steve, who is a college senior at Carnegie Mellon and now finishing his classes online from home with us as well. Rebecca's boyfriend has also joined our family during this crisis and used his technology skills yesterday to add two new routers to improve our home internet so we can all function working remotely. For me, my biggest concern is for my oldest daughter, Nicole and her husband, Chris. He is an Emergency Room Doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 health crisis without the needed medical supplies and protection because of limited supplies.

All of us have been affected by this pandemic in some way as it has changed our way of life in the span of one week. It is most important for us to take care of one another. Take this time to be together, share laughs, love, and make time for fun. We have had fun cooking together, playing board games, and enjoying the sunshine in the backyard. No matter the age, our children need us for emotional support and stability; and we need them for the laughter and love they bring into our lives. Thank you for sharing your children with all of us. Although, we miss the laughter and learning at school, we will all adjust to connecting with them online during this transition. Please know that your Exploris family is here to support you. Feel free to reach out to your crew teacher, school counselor, or any administrator if your family needs assistance during this challenging time. I wish you all good health, happiness, and the joy of time with your children.

All the best,