



Academy of Arts and Knowledge

Creating an environment in which all students can reach their full potential

4800 Wheaton Dr Fort Collins, CO 80525 Phone (970) 226-2800 Fax (970) 316-6745

Dear AAK Families-

Yesterday, Colorado Governor Jared Polis extended the closure of state-wide suspension of in-person instruction at all public and private schools through April 30 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. School districts and independent charter schools like AAK have been encouraged to work with their local county health departments for further guidance on how to proceed.

The Larimer County Department of Health and Environment has issued the below statement of support in the cancellation of all in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Larimer County currently has data that predict the last week of April to be the peak of COVID-19 in Colorado. While these models change and more data becomes available daily, at this time it seems unlikely Colorado schools will reopen for in person learning this school year. While the governor extended his ban of in person learning through April 30th, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment fully expects that to be extended through the end of the school year.

Larimer County is recommending school districts consider closing for in person learning through the end of the year. "As we urge our community to take the stay-at-home orders seriously, it is unlikely we will see a re-opening of in person learning for this school year," says Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director. "All of us want our students to go back to school, including me, but we have to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and that means keeping students out of schools and continuing with the virtual learning options our school districts have in place."

Based on these recommendations and in the interest of the safety of our students, staff, and community, AAK has made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We will continue with our remote learning opportunities that have already begun, and are still just as dedicated to educating the students in our community. These times are challenging, but they are also unleashing so much passion and talent in our staff as they deliver education in a new way.

We appreciate the kind and constructive feedback we have received as we've transitioned to online learning, and are proud of our teachers and families for adjusting so quickly to these new circumstances. We know this is a stressful time, and encourage you to continue to help one another and be kind.

Again, thank you for your continued support and all that you do for the Academy of Arts & Knowledge.

Jami Montoya and Shannon Gossard
AAK Directors