March 29, 2020

To the St. Luke’s Faculty:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I hope all of you and your families remain safe and healthy and that you are finding ways to navigate tolerably through this most unusual and challenging time.

As we approach the end of Spring break, which I acknowledge was likely no break at all for you, I can’t help but look forward with a tremendous degree of optimism. None of us wanted or expected the incredible disruption in the rhythm of school that COVID-19 has brought upon us. We love what our incredibly talented and caring faculty do so well for our children – guiding, teaching and challenging them while preparing them to become the happy, engaged, productive adults we want them to be. We know the remainder of this school year will require difficult adjustments and will be taken along a path we together have never before traveled. But what other group of adults would any of us as Trustees or parents prefer to have our children travel this rocky road with?

While you have never before taught all your classes online, I’m not worried. As a school we are better prepared for this challenge than any other institution I know of. Will it all go perfectly smoothly and according to plan? Of course not! You will have great successes and probably, as our kids like to say, some “epic fails”. No one expects you to be perfect. So plunge ahead, make some errors, make corrections and do it all over again. It’s the way we all, students and teachers, children and adults, make our way through our lives.

While I know you will all try to do your jobs as well as possible under these circumstances, I also know you’re worried about the future, and about your families and loved ones. We all are. I’m sure many of you are also concerned about trying to juggle care for vulnerable older parents, for young children cooped up at home and for dealing with more personal stress than you may ever have dealt with before. There’s little I can do to alleviate those stresses or remove the additional responsibilities this crisis has made evident. But I can say, unequivocally, for myself and for the Board, we understand. We’re all in this together and by supporting each other we’ll endure this trial together as well.

In the movie *Apollo 13*, while lamenting the seemingly overwhelming challenges facing the mission a Nasa Director says: “This could be the worst disaster NASA has ever experienced.” Flight Director Gene Kranz then intervenes: “With all due respect, Sir, I believe this is going to be our finest hour.”

Indeed, so do I.

Yours sincerely,

James G. Andersen
Chair, Board of Trustees
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke’s School