

Good morning.

I want to begin by expressing our ongoing hope that all of you are healthy, safe, and beyond the reach of the coronavirus. The Roman philosopher Seneca wrote, "a gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials." While the school has certainly been challenged by this pandemic, our community has risen to meet the challenge in its inimitable way. We are moving forward successfully with a generosity of spirit and a can-do approach that will carry the day.

In ways that I suspect resonate with most of you, I find myself deep in thought reflecting on this sense of community. First, I am inspired by so many in this community who are deeply committed to continuing to be Maplebrook School at its best in this virtual mode. Our administration, faculty, staff, and students have been extraordinary at every turn. I couldn't be prouder of our students and urge us all to follow their example of fortitude: arriving to classes early ready to learn, producing quality work, upbeat and leaving us eager to log in the next day so see their smiling faces. Second, I am humbled by those who are required to stay away from campus, but who continue to check on the Maplebrook family. I was working at my home desk on Saturday and received a phone call from our chaplain, Mr. Witt. He and Mrs. Witt were at the bottom of my driveway and took the time out of their day to see how I was and to bring good tidings. We engaged in a conversation as invigorating as the 40 degree temperatures. For these reasons and so many others, I remain as grateful to be a member of this community as I have ever been.

Just a few reminders/updates as we go into the next week:

- * Please sign the guestbook for the Class of 2020, they are so excited to see all the messages of support in this unusual time.
- * We hope you will all participate in and have fun filming your portions of Maplebrook Prom: The Movie. We need your video clips by **May 15**. If you have questions or need technical support, please don't hesitate to contact us.
- * Because the students and staff have worked so hard, beginning this Friday we will move to a "casual Fridays" attire.
- * There will be no classes on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

In closing, I want to again thank all of you for your support and engagement through such a stressful and challenging time in all of our lives. Our community is a far more formidable force than the challenge we are facing today.

Be well,

Jenn Scully