

CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL

National Leader in Learning Disabilities

April 13, 2020

Dear Churchill Community,

As we continue to navigate through a new reality, I wanted to reach out with an update about how Churchill Center & School is continuing to advance our mission through this unprecedented time. Last week, Governor Parson announced that public and charter schools will remain closed through the remainder of this school year. Following the Governor's announcement, the Director of the Independent Schools Association of St. Louis (ISSA) hosted an online meeting of the ISSA Heads of School. During the discussion, most of the schools made the decision to continue the closure of their campuses and extend Distance Learning through the remainder of the school term.

Therefore, it is with great consideration that I announce Churchill Center & School will be continuing the Distance Learning Plan through the rest of the 2019-2020 school year, which concludes on Friday, May 22, 2020. Speaking for myself, our leadership team, faculty and staff, we are truly saddened not to be able to finish this semester together in our school building. However, we hope you understand that the health and safety of our entire community are at the forefront of our decision.

Commitment to our Mission

During this time of uncertainty, Churchill remains 100% dedicated to our mission of providing our students the finest, individualized, remedial education and the support they need to achieve success and return to a traditional classroom. While our first priority is to be a part of the solution to protect the overall health and safety of our immediate and global community, our focus continues to be meeting the needs of our students, and providing child-centered education for our diverse learners.

While our school days and lives may look differently, I have been repeatedly reminded in these recent days how significant our core values are in what we do:

- Our program is **CHILD-CENTERED** and focused on the remediation of the academic struggles of each child.
- We foster a genuine love and **CARING** for the uniqueness of each child.
- As individuals and as a group, we are **KNOWLEDGEABLE** of the most effective educational techniques to help children with learning disabilities.
- **TEAMWORK** is fundamental to our success.

Distance Learning Plan

Our current academic plan of Distance Learning will continue through Friday, May 22. Our faculty is utilizing Zoom to communicate with students for daily lessons in all classes, including each child's one-on-one tutorial session. Preparing for this has been a huge undertaking within a critical timeline and I am so proud of our faculty and staff's commitment to execute this plan. If there's one thing we are accustomed to at Churchill, it is creating an adaptable and innovative curriculum. We are incredibly fortunate to have the very best faculty for this situation. Not only

are they highly-trained educators, but they are patient, thoughtful and versatile in their instruction, making us uniquely positioned to take on the challenges ahead.

Everything we do at Churchill has always been designed to help each child learn in a way that's best for them- and that is what we will continue during this time. Delivering the kind of instruction that our students require, and to which they are accustomed through a distance learning platform, can present challenges. However, through collaboration with our colleagues across the country who lead schools similar to Churchill, and our close partnership with Wilson Language Training®, we have developed a comprehensive approach. We are confident that this will ensure an effective way to deliver quality instruction and Wilson® lessons via Zoom with fidelity, and still include daily tutorials for each student, which are the heart of the Churchill experience.

Stay Connected

In this current climate, we have the health and well-being of our entire Churchill family at the forefront of our thoughts. We care deeply about preserving our connections among all constituents- students, alumni, current parents, alumni parents and friends, and want to ensure our entire community continues to feel engaged with our mission and commitment to education. We encourage you to stay in touch with us via our social media channels, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and follow our [website](#) for up-to-date information.

Many of you have asked how you can help. Especially during these uncertain times, we truly appreciate the dedication of our caring community. Your [support of Churchill](#) gives us the ability to continue to provide the critical education that our students need. For more than 42 years, Churchill has empowered bright children to thrive, no matter how they learn. Regardless of the struggles we face, this will never change.

Future Ahead

As we look toward the weeks and months ahead, I know there will be challenging times. But I am also reassured that first and foremost, we are a strong, loving, supportive community that celebrates uniqueness, kindness and respect. I am encouraged by our unwavering strength and commitment to our mission, and know that by working together, our students will continue to thrive.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continued support of Churchill Center & School as we navigate through this situation together. We are committed to staying engaged with you, our Churchill family, and hope you remain safe and healthy throughout this unprecedented time.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the bottom.

Sandra K. Gilligan
Founding Director