

SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

... serving God and others as we work and play

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Dear Sioux Center Christian School Community Member,

May 19, 2020

Greetings from the board of trustees! This has been a unique end to our school year. We are finding closure in different ways than normal – through virtual means and others. Our schedules and routines have been changed. **In fact, it doesn't seem like there is one part of our life that hasn't been affected.** We have all experienced some kind of loss. Students, you've not said goodbye to friends and some other friendly faces you used to see every day walking through the halls. The same is true for teachers and staff. You miss your students, you miss your classrooms, you miss connection. As parents, we've transitioned into summer without much of a feeling of transition. Saturday seems like Monday seems like Wednesday seems like June seems like April.

So many things have been affected and we have lost some "normal" things, but two things have remained the same: our focus on our mission at SCCS and our appreciation for you.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I want to say, "Thank you!" Thank you, students, for being vigilant, for hanging in there at home instead of your normal classroom, for setting an example for parents, teachers, and community members. Thank you, teachers, for adapting to a new teaching style and adjusting with speed and good attitudes, for keeping the discipleship of our students a top priority, and for showing love and kindness in new and unique ways. You have been working overtime. Thank you, staff members. You have kept the ship moving forward at school even when the building was closed because some things just can't stop. Thank you, parents. You've stayed home, you've sacrificed, you've learned how to teach, and you've chosen to embody peace in your homes in a time when others are choosing panic.

On Wednesday night, we will host our annual society meeting. The "virtual" format of this meeting will be different than any way we've ever done it in the history of our school. The way we communicate and connect will just not be the same, but we hope to see you there, regardless. **We have many exciting and important things to share.**

Over the last number of weeks, the board of trustees and the finance team have been collecting information from our society members and reviewing our budget that we initially passed a number of months ago. We've also been trying to gain an understanding of how our families are doing. I'd like to share some of this information with you.

Overwhelmingly, our families are very pleased with the way our school and teachers have been helping our students continue their learning at home and how we've been communicating and operating as a school. We're hoping the style of learning we've had to use is behind us and that we can resume classroom learning face-to-face in the fall, and please know **we will be doing everything possible so that can happen. We have already been working on mitigation plans, getting supplies in place, making plans for training staff, and more.** Dr. Bowar will be sharing more information as the days and weeks unfold this summer.

We know that some of our families are starting to see financial effects of the pandemic. This brings much stress. As a board, we have spent hours discussing and listening to determine how to best meet our families' needs. Our priority is to make sure that those families who are affected will be taken care of. **We never want finances to be a barrier to Christian education.** If you have been affected, please do complete the tuition assistance form that has been sent to parents. I know it can be hard to ask for help, but now is not the time to be timid about reaching out. **We want to help,** and all information will be kept confidential. We have funding available to assist families but need to know what the needs are. **Please know that there will be support provided for the 20-21 school year as well, with specifics coming out this summer.**

I am humbly encouraged by all of you. **Your efforts these last number of weeks have shown the resilience of our community and our steadfastness in clinging to the hope we have in Jesus.** We will continue to face challenges and trials, and we will continue to make hard decisions, but we know that God's had His hand on SCCS for over 115 years, and He will not stop now. **He has been faithful.** Thank you, also, for your faithfulness. **We move forward together.**

In Him,



Paul Ross, *Sioux Center Christian School Board of Trustees President*