

COVID19. March 2020 – A TEACHER’S REFLECTION

Dear students, parents and fellow colleagues:

First and foremost, may I lead this communication with the hopes that all who may read it find themselves and those they hold dear in a good state of current physical and emotion health. There is no price or measure that may be placed upon one’s collective well being!

In all that we are missing with regards to our learning for this 4th quarter, perhaps we are instead learning the value of stability, friends, family and the power and importance of a national unity which traverses ALL lines of personal, social and political sentiments and boundaries! Thus is the irony of such; that in the back draft of one line of learning lost, emerges a powerful form of social learning gained! Perhaps we are not so invincible as we may at times voice or perceive ourselves to be!

We as teachers are privileged with the precious opportunity and responsibility to serve certain facets of a parental role in the lives of our students each and every day, whether from the actual stage of our classrooms, or from the thousands of locations we all know as “Home”. It is on that note of my “parental” affection and care for each and everyone that in weeks prior to our exit from school that I sought to educate all of my class population on the topics of viruses, bacteria and our immune system . I foresaw a possibility and huddled to the cause of educating each of you with regards to the microbial world.

In knowledge there is the power of awareness which in turn fosters the acts of health and prevention. In your viewing of the film:” The Unseen Enemy” and the ensuing discussions, questions and numerous printed items. it was my proactive intention to serve the betterment of your awareness during such times as we now endure. While it has certainly been my hope and prayer that “potential” did not become the “eventual”, we no longer harbor that wish list of “Could haves” or “Would haves”.

May the overall grand scope of our privileges enjoyed in our lives as Americans be NOT diminished by the narrow vision of our personal acts of arrogance, selfishness and those who perceive and deliver themselves as “ invincible”! The first and foremost duty to each and everyone of us is a duty to ourselves! To practice all

restraints asked of us by those on the frontlines, face to face with an enemy with no face.

Viruses know not of prejudice! They are indiscriminate to the “Yay” or “Ney” side of ALL human beings across the planet. The great irony here is that in both our defense from, and in our measures to conquer this enemy, we need not amass as an army together, but instead as an army strengthened in the weapon of isolation. Viruses thrive and multiply on the platforms of close human proximity. On that note, there is weaponry in a good book, a walk in the forest or a TV remote! Thus are the likes of our weapons of choice. May we collectively defeat this virus with our personal willingness to be alone!

In a plan and effort to accomplish a goal or a strategy of the defense against a threat, we must first define the pieces, parts and premises; the “Playing Field” if you will. And with regards to your 4th quarter education, testing etc. all has been in a such state of entropy, unable to find solid ground simply because we have not been able to plan for a future when we have no knowledge of what each today may bring biologically or politically.

While swinging swords of efforts, ideas and pathways into the dark unknown may at times serve for some as sense of effort and control, it is what stands once the dust has cleared that will both win and define the day as the final plan and directives are based upon what we DO know verses that of which we Do Not. There is no part or interpretation of the word “Speculate” that bears the confidence of the phrase; “For Sure!” What we can embrace as an action of resolve is our conviction to Do the Right thing!

Be Well !

Be Smart!

Be a Citizen!

Play YOUR Part!

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