



3/23/20 Update

By now I'm sure many of you have heard of Governor Cooper's decision to close all public schools in North Carolina through May 15. Here is a link to the Fayetteville Observer's article on his press conference from today. <https://www.fayobserver.com/news/20200323/north-carolina-governor-orders-schools-closed-through-may-15-orders-some-businesses-to-close>

As you know RLS's plan for closure only took us through the end of Spring Break on April 13, though we were all aware that this situation could very well evolve into a longer shut down of schools. We now need to respond to the Governor's call with our own reasoned plan of action that will best serve our RLS community. Know that I have already reached out to our Faculty and Board of Directors and we are actively working on the "second stage" to the Distance Learning (DL) plan already put forward last week. That DL plan is still in effect through Spring Break. We will be in touch with you very soon with more.

It is my hope that these significant days that we find ourselves in will bring us closer to God and his Providence. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or any on the staff. We are in this TOGETHER.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who have reached out to me and my family recently. As some of you may know, my son Sam was working in Madrid, Spain as an English-speaking Teaching Assistant in a Spanish High School this year. His school also was put on hiatus, but he had been working from home providing content for their version of DL. My wife and I were getting more and more concerned that he may end up being stranded in Spain if we did not get him home to North Carolina soon. We were able to do just that and last night he landed at RDU.

As much as my wife Jenny and I wanted to hug him, we knew we could not and we provided a method of getting him home without any physical contact with us whatsoever. He is now in "self-quarantine" (he is fine by the way, no fever, feeling well) in our basement "in-law" suite while I am also now out of an abundance of caution in self-quarantine on the first floor of our home. My wife and two daughters are staying in other safe locations, isolating themselves so as not to have to self-quarantine. My

apologies if I have not gotten back to any individual email I have received from you over the weekend or today yet as I have been working hard to prepare a place for my son, work through the quarantine steps, and now respond to Governor Cooper's Executive Orders (as well as trying to keep up with my three DL classes that I'm teaching). Still awaiting this "slow down" everyone is talking about!

God is Good and He will see us through. Thank you for your partnership and prayers.

3/16/20 Update

Another eventful day. I truly pray for peace for you and your family. We will get through this! I am sharing a devotion I shared with our staff today at the end of this note. Know that God is aware of our troubles and we at RLS want to help you as well. Do not hesitate to reach out.

A productive meeting with your teachers today. They are all excited about starting Distance Learning (DL) with your students. What an adventure!

A few things to bear in mind. Teachers will be in contact with you regarding how to implement DL by the end of the school day on Wednesday (maybe before!). Wednesday, March 18 from 9 am to 3 pm has been set aside as a time you may enter the school to pick up additional materials the teachers have set out or perhaps pick up materials that were sent home last Friday, but you were unable to receive. The teachers will note if there are any additional resources put out in their note to you.

Many teachers have some "electronic component" to their DL. This is rarely, if ever, something that has a specific timed encounter (like a Skype meeting, etc.). If you are "sharing" your electronic devices with your student at home that should not be a problem at all. Most just need to be able to check their email at some point in the day and respond within 24 hours or so. If you find you are in a position where the teacher's DL plan causes you concern from a device perspective, please reach out to Danielle Altieri (daniellealtieri@rlscary.org) and we will see what can be done.

Many teachers will be instituting "office hours" when you know your student can get a hold of them for questions, etc. In the School Office we will also be checking phone messages from the general office boxes and keeping reduced office hours as well. More information on calendar items will be forthcoming in the next few days from the office too. We are striving to stay as in touch with you as possible, but certain items are just not settled yet or may change significantly depending on how this situation evolves.

3/15/20 Update

What a tumultuous couple of days. Representatives of the RLS Board of Directors, RLS Staff, and our Pastor just met to continue to evolve the RLS plan for the next couple of weeks. Let me break it down for you here.

1. Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 will be Teacher Workdays at RLS (no students on campus). We will be working on further extended “distance” learning plans.
2. Wednesday, March 18, RLS Distance Learning to begin by the end of day. Parents may stop in to the school building (9am to 3 pm) to collect additional materials (especially if they were not able to pick up materials sent home on Friday, March 13). RLS teachers will be in contact with families with instructions on how to implement Distance Learning for their classes by end of this day.
3. Distance Learning practices will be in place through Friday, April 3rd.
4. At this point, Spring Break will be occurring AS SCHEDULED (Monday, April 6 through Monday, April 13). This is subject to change if necessary. You will be updated to any change as soon as possible.*
5. Tuesday, April 14 = return to regular school operation (projected, subject to change as needed, again updates to come home asap if this needs to be changed).

The Board of Directors realize that this is an ever evolving situation and that extending the school year, changing ITBS standardized testing dates, issuing of report cards for the end of third quarter all are somewhat in flux right now. Please be patient as the Board works to sort through these items. Much will be determined by what happens in the next couple of weeks with the virus.

*Please note that during the Spring Break time the expectation is that any RLS families traveling abroad or taking a cruise must inform the school and complete a 14-day self-quarantine before being eligible to return to school. A self-quarantine means a student would remain at home during this period. Please use your best judgment on any travel, even in state, as we are trying to keep all safe at RLS.

3/14/20 Update

RLS WILL FOLLOW the Wake County Public School System decision to close school buildings starting Monday, March 16 through AT LEAST Friday, March 27.

Teachers have sent home school material with your student on Friday in case of this contingency. Teachers will be in contact with you via email no later than end of business on Wednesday, March 18 with more information for you as to how and when to utilize this material. At this point the plan is for the school building to be open to

parents on Wednesday, March 18 who need to stop in for additional materials set out by teachers for their students. This time frame may be able to be advanced. Please wait for more information from your teacher or the school office. I will be sending you more information on how the calendar will work with the adjustments. The RLS Board of Directors will still be meeting tomorrow (Sunday, March 15) to work on scheduling details. Thank you for those who took the time to respond to the Board's quick survey that was just sent out an hour or so ago before the Wake Co. decision. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

We turn to God in times of stress and know that He gives the peace that passes all understanding. I pray this for you and yours during these anxious times. We will get through this all together (even if together means via text and email for a while!).

3/13/20 Update

I want to give you the latest update on the Coronavirus situation as it relates to RLS. You may be aware that three local school systems (Durham, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, and Orange County) have announced school calendar changes, interrupting regular school operations starting Monday, March 16. At this point (Friday, March 13 at 5 pm) Wake County Public Schools have NOT altered their calendar.

RLS has NOT had any reports of the virus in our preschool, school, or families at this time. Remember, Wake County officials will contact anyone who they suspect may have been exposed to the virus.

RLS leadership is constantly monitoring this evolving situation and working to make the best decisions for our school children, families, and staff. We will at least follow Wake County guidelines, but we may well move more aggressively than Wake County. School materials were sent home with your child today in case the decision is made to close the school building as early as our next scheduled school day, Monday, March 16. These materials are not meant to be accomplished this weekend. They are the first part of a contingency plan. Your child's teacher will be contacting you with instructions for these materials should that be necessary.

The RLS Board of Directors has been called into a special session this Sunday. At that time, a determination on the school calendar will be made. Any change in school schedule will be shared with you as soon as possible following this meeting. If there are necessary updates before that time, we will apprise you by email and or text.

Our Preschool Director, Diane Hooper, shared a link the NC PTA provided as a resource in helping to discuss the Coronavirus with children. Feel free to check it out and utilize it at your own discretion. The link is from the National Association of School Psychologists.

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Know that we are continually in prayer that God's Will will be done. Our anxieties and cares we can take to Him because we know He cares for us. (Paraphrase of I Peter 5:7)

3/11/20 Update

You may have heard that Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 and that three area private schools have made some temporary closing decisions related to the Coronavirus concerns. I wanted to give you an update on RLS' preparedness for Coronavirus and give you a link to the latest Wake County Public Schools message.

We have NOT had any reports of the virus in our school or families so are NOT making any closing notices at this time. Remember, Wake County Health Officials will contact anyone who they suspect may have been exposed to the virus. We continue to use enhanced cleaning measures, stress good hand hygiene, covering our coughs, and staying home when not feeling well. We have also instituted some changes to our core class library and school library policies/procedures.

We also have replaced the faucet handles in our elementary and middle school hallway bathrooms. The old faucets used a "cartridge" to stay on for a brief bit of time to allow a person to wash, but then shut off so the water could not be accidentally left on. The concern was that this was not giving sufficient time for the hand washing to be effective, especially if you were awaiting warm/hot water. We have replaced these with more traditional faucet handles. The only "catch" is that one must remember to shut them off manually. Please help remind your student of that!

Here is the latest Wake County note. <https://www.wcpss.net/coronavirus>
In the note it stresses that state officials have specifically recommended that schools NOT be closed. Wake County has also made some decisions regarding school events and travel. We at RLS are looking at those restrictions and have cancelled some of our field trips as well.

As always, we look to God as our protector and our rock. With good preparation and sound faith we move forward under His protection. Blessings to you.

3/6/20 Update

You may have heard that the victim of the first confirmed case of Coronavirus in Wake

County has been tied to some local institutions (restaurants, churches, etc.). It has been reported that he is a member of a local Lutheran Church. I want you all to know that it is not our parent church, but another in our community. Since you don't hear of Lutheran Churches in the news that often, I wanted to just make sure all was clear.

Secondly, Wake County Public Schools have sent out an update which I thought was informative so I would like to share it with you. You may find it at <https://www.wcpss.net/coronavirus>

Some of the "highlights" of the message are that a Wake County Public Health Division official would contact anyone they deem at risk of exposure to Covid-19. If someone has not been contacted and they are not showing symptoms, they do not need to isolate themselves or take precautions beyond the norm (washing of hands, covering their cough, staying home if they feel sick). Also state and federal law prohibits a school from sharing confidential information about students and employees, like health status, etc. I don't see this as an "issue" at our school, but it is good to realize.

Finally, I wanted to let you all know about some other changes we are making to help reduce the risk of transmission of this or any other illness in our school. We have instituted some changes in our Library program for the time being. Normally, the students would sit in a circle on the rug in the library and check out books (and even snuggle some stuffed animals that "live" in the library) taking them home and returning them in due course. Books and rugs (and stuffed animals) are very hard to disinfect (not being "hard" surfaces) and these spaces and items would be visited by multiple classes and taken to and from our facility normally. We feel we should curtail those things for now.

What will happen is that our library staff will visit the elementary classrooms instead, reading to the students, and/or bringing library curriculum items along with them. This should help contain things to individual classrooms and not risk exposure of one class to each other with these "soft" items. Again, just precautionary, not response to any particular concern.

Basically, any "soft" items will be relegated to each classroom, not shared among them. As much as possible, we plan to have students use only items put for their individual use. This is not always 100% possible, but when an item is shared (like a computer keyboard), it is cleaned regularly.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

3/4/20 Update

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) has been making news for a while now and as of

yesterday, the first confirmed case has been found in Wake County. The safety of our students, staff, and families is our top priority. I want to assure you that we at Resurrection are closely monitoring the situation.

First, it is important to have the facts on Coronavirus. This will help you stay informed while staying out of the “weeds” of misinformation/speculation. We recommend the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and the World Health Organization website <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> for the most up-to-date information. Another site that may help explain things to students (likely 3rd grade on up) is this “Brainpop” video. <https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/> It does a nice job of bringing the facts to the kid’s level.

Second, we are big believers in preparation. The best way to keep our school as virus free as possible is to follow the CDC guidelines.

- Good hand hygiene
 - washing frequently with antibacterial soap
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>
 - coughing/sneezing into elbow not hand
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid contact with people who are sick (whether Coronavirus or not)
 - If your child is not feeling well, has a cough or flu-like symptoms, has a fever or used fever-reducing medication in the past 24 hours, please keep them home.
 - If you are concerned that anyone in your household may have been exposed to the Coronavirus, you should call your medical provider.
- School Cleanliness
 - We will continue to proactively clean and follow CDC and health guidelines emphasizing the importance of good hygiene practices.
 - Daily emphasis on cleaning of classrooms and restrooms.
 - We have put in place enhanced cleaning measures to try to address “common”/public areas of our school.

Third is contingency planning. In the event the state or local government calls for any disruption in public gatherings, such as in schools, we will follow these experts' recommendations. Should there be any sizable disruption, our staff is working on action planning to enable the least amount of impact on our students and families.

Finally, often it is the “unknown” that can cause the most concern in cases like this. Finding out the facts, preparing smartly, and trusting in our officials should give us peace of mind. Furthermore, we know that as people of faith our God is in control. I’ll leave you with a word from I Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

Responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The safety of our staff, students and families is our top priority.

In the event of a local case of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we will follow the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC is emphasizing the importance of good hygiene practices and maintaining normal cleaning routines to fight germs and prevent the spread of illness. We encourage all to regularly and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/wash-your-hands-fact-sheet-508.pdf>

If your child is not feeling well, has a cough or flu-like symptoms, has a fever or used fever-reducing medication within the past 24 hours, please keep them home. If you are concerned that anyone in your household may have been exposed to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), you should call your medical provider.

Know that we will continue to be vigilant to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. If you would like more information regarding this virus, please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov