



## SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

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A Letter from the Headmaster

March 13, 2020

Dear Alumni and Friends of Saint James School,

I write in response to the concerns expressed by several of you regarding the novel coronavirus and our response here on campus.

First, as regards the functioning of the school, you will see in this [letter to parents](#) that we have delayed the opening of school by two weeks until the evening of March 29. This is provisional, and we may need to delay our opening further.

Further, we have essentially closed the campus to visitors and cancelled all school trips through April.

Regrettably, but with the health and safety of our alumni community in mind, we will need to cancel upcoming events. The Washington, DC Alumni Reception scheduled for Friday, March 20 is postponed and we hope to find a date in the future to reschedule.

We have also decided to cancel Alumni Weekend for several reasons. Most importantly, our older alumni are at particular risk in this pandemic, and we do not want them to travel or risk infection in large gatherings here on campus. We are also concerned for the health of our students and faculty, and we cannot anticipate whether we will be open to visitors later in April. My best guess is that we will be open and functioning again, but still functioning with some remaining "closed campus" protocols. Finally, we do not want our alumni making bookings that they might need to cancel, or indeed enter into contracts ourselves which may incur significant cost to the school.

Our present thinking is that we will move the Alumni Dinner to next fall, so that we can gather as a company, award the Distinguished Service Prize to Adna Fulton, who so very much deserves it, and give the 2020 Alumni Prize as well. Please note that all those who have already purchased tickets for the Alumni Dinner will be offered refunds, and the Development Office will be in touch shortly to make these arrangements.

We will also need to reschedule the dedication of the new Pohanka Fine Arts Center and dedicate the site of the Turner Athletic Center. Ideally, this will happen later in the spring.

Finally, and true to form, I would not be doing my job as headmaster if I did not seize this occasion to ask those of you who have yet to give to the [Annual Fund](#) to do so, and those who have already given, to please consider a second gift.

For reasons beyond our control, we find ourselves in a particularly challenging year, so it is especially important that we reach or even surpass our \$1.2 million goal. Happily, because of your past support, we are meeting our present challenges from a position of real financial strength, but I personally want to make sure that we end the year with a balanced or even surplus budget, so that we have the resources we will need for the challenges to come.

May God bless you all and keep you healthy and safe in the present crisis, and thank you again for your generous and loyal support of Saint James School.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Dunnan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Revd. Dr. D. Stuart Dunnan  
Headmaster