



March 13, 2020

Dear BELA Community,

Since I wrote last night there have been significant changes in city and country-wide measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Across the country, more schools have closed as they face cases of COVID-19 in their communities and others as a preventative measure. While to date, BELA has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community, we believe transitioning to virtual learning is a way to do our part to help control the spread of this illness and with our community's continued best health and wellness in mind.

**The BELA Board has made the informed decision to transition to virtual learning effective Tuesday, March 17th.** As a reminder, Monday, March 16th is a BELA Wellness Day for all students and staff. All after school and extracurricular programs connected (or not connected) to BELA are cancelled. We will reevaluate the situation in two weeks and will assess the situation by **Thursday, March 26th** to make a determination about whether we can return to our school on Monday, March 30th. These decisions will be made in conjunction with city and state health agencies and in partnership with our authorizer - SUNY Charter Schools Institute.

**All students, who were in attendance today, were trained today on how to access and participate in our virtual learning platform.** The expectation is for all students to participate in virtual learning between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. By Monday, March 16th at 9:00 am, a detailed email will be sent to families, via ParentSquare, outlining the virtual learning expectations.

We will continue to send out updates via ParentSquare. Thank you all for being vital members of a community that cares deeply not only about our children, but the well being of our broader neighborhoods and city.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me - email: [nicia@belahs.org](mailto:nicia@belahs.org) or phone: 347.491.8320

In partnership,

Ms. Nicia  
BELA, Head of School