

Dear Altamont Parents,

I hope you are safe, healthy and enjoying the first days of spring break. Thank you for your participation in our Distance Learning Plan survey. We will use the data to help improve our instructional delivery to your children.

I've been reading about the impact of social distancing and the ramifications of extended separation from friends and loved ones. On this topic, I want to share a couple of community developments with you.

The **increased use and dependence on social media** for personal interaction have positive and negative implications. We are grateful that students can engage with each other through technology; however, the increase in digital traffic creates additional opportunities for students to cross over the line into inappropriate messaging. We encourage you to continue your dialogue with your children on appropriate use of social media and text messaging.

Social distancing works, yet not everyone is practicing it. Over the past few weeks Americans have been slowly warming up to the need to practice social distancing. In order to 'flatten the curve', we must all do what we can to slow the transmit of COVID-19. Yet during spring break our students have a good deal of idle time, and understandably want to get out of the house and engage with friends. However, the [Jefferson County Department of Health](#) is clear on public gatherings:

"Effective immediately, all gatherings of 10 persons or more, or **gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons**, are prohibited until further notice. This Order shall apply to all gatherings, events, or activities that bring 10 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time."

During spring break we encourage everyone to follow safe practices regarding social distancing.

Please enjoy your break. Let me know if you have questions.

Take care,
Chris Durst
Head of School