



SEQUITUR AT-HOME

Dear Sequitur Families and Faculty,

As a Christian community of many kinds of families, individual experiences, and individual needs, there is no doubt that what is currently happening with Covid-19 will impact our lives, our students, and each city in very different ways. I suspect some of us have already had to take great precautions in our homes, planning care for aging parents, or responding to the economic downturn we've experienced. As we have all vigilantly watched the past few months unfold, it has become clear that it was not a matter of *if* we would need to take precautions individually and as an institution, but *when* and *what kind*.

Thursday evening, March 12, our **administration** held a lengthy meeting to discuss three questions:

- 1) What are the specific details of a short-term and long-term Emergency Shutdown?
- 2) Under what conditions we would enact an Emergency Shutdown?
- 3) What is our plan for communicating and executing an Emergency Shutdown?

In our discussions, we **considered** the following

- The material published on Covid-19 by professional and reputable sources.
- The public healthcare professional documents and recommendations for schools (Louisiana Department of Health and CDC).
- Personal conversations with top healthcare officials across the United States.
- Monitoring the decisions made by leading academic institutions and organizations in our state and surrounding states.
- Our understanding of the students, personnel, and families we are to care for at our academy.
- The possible repercussion of our decisions for the Spring Gala, Celebratio, Senior Thesis, Admissions meetings, testing, curriculum, etc.

Thankfully, we are not in uncharted territory, and we are not in this alone. After considering several paths forward, as well as the other points of consideration above, our administration unanimously voted, and sent a recommendation to our board, who also unanimously voted, **to enact our “Sequitur At-Home” plan starting Monday, March 16th until the end of the semester.** While it is possible that the academy's role and risk in the Covid-19 spread may allow us to return classes back to normal before the end of the semester, this is not what we are now currently planning. Our plan, both for continuity and expectation, is to finish the spring 2020 semester in accordance with our “Sequitur At-



Home” plan. In brief, here is a general outline of this plan. The specific plan will be emailed to you in the next 48 hours:

- Sequitur classes will be held **online**, on an online teaching platform.
- Your student will still have their **primary instructor** for their classes.
- Some classes have been labeled **red classes**. This means they will not be offered for the remainder of this semester. Some of your student’s classes will be **yellow classes**. This means they will still be offered, but at a slower pace. Some of your student’s classes will be **green classes**. This means they will be offered and at a higher and more consistent pace than the other classes.
- Your student’s weekly **class schedule** will have their classes dispersed at various times throughout the day, from 8AM-4PM, Monday through Friday.
- Teachers will hold one **live class** throughout the week. Teachers may also upload material or **lectures** throughout the week for student and parent assistance.
- Your home will need at least **one computer** or cell-phone in order for your student to participate in the classes. If you have multiple children at Sequitur, or if you are a teacher with children, it would be best to have at least two computers or one computer and a cell phone. We have set the schedule to avoid as much scheduling conflict between sibling classes as possible, but we know it is likely a family of three or four will have at least one overlap between classes during the week, and so each child will need an access point for their live class.
- Your student will need to organize their **school books and materials** in a neat place to ensure they have the books and materials they need for class.

Here is an important and initial schedule for the next few days:

Saturday, March 14: “Sequitur At-Home” Plan and Schedule sent to parents and faculty.

Monday, March 16: Teacher Orientation and Training at Istrouma 9AM-12PM (in-person)

Tuesday, March 17: Parent and Student Orientation 10AM-12PM (online).

Wednesday, March 18: Classes begin.

This is a unique time for our country, our city, and our academy. We ask a few things of you at this time: Please join your family together in praying for healthcare professionals, the sick, and those who will be on the frontlines of this. Be patient and flexible as we inevitably work out the kinks and knots that will arise. And be open to the Lord growing and maturing your family and our academy during this time, seeing this as the Lord’s providence to mature us in accordance with his goodness and love for our students and our academy.

Before closing, I want to share two powerful quotes with you, one from C.S. Lewis and one from John Newton. I trust they will sanctify your imagination and consideration of this moment as much as they have mine:



"In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents."

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds."

John Newton states:

"Our earthly comforts would be doubly sweet, if we could but venture them without anxiety in the Lord's hands. And where can we lodge them so safely? Is not the first gift, the continuance, the blessing which makes them pleasing, all from him? Was not his design in all this, that we should be happy in them? How then can we fear that he will threaten them, much less take them away, but with a view to our farther benefit? Let us suppose the thing we are most afraid of actually to happen. Can it come a moment sooner, or in any other way, than by his appointment? Is he not gracious and faithful to support us under the stroke? Is he not rich enough to give us something better than ever he will take away? Is not the light of his countenance better than life and all its most valued enjoyments? Is not this our time of trial, and are we not traveling towards a land of light?" – John Newton, letter one of *Twenty-One Letters*

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with our academy, even as we get creative under these peculiar circumstances.

With Gratitude,
Brian G. Daigle