



Friday, May 8

Dear NGFS Community,

At the conclusion of Teacher Appreciation Week, it is fitting to celebrate and honor the work of our dedicated faculty. Since March, our teachers have learned and mastered new technology, designed lessons suited to remote learning, and forged new paths of inquiry to inspire and engage students. In keeping with the very core of our mission, teachers have found ways to honor and develop the gifts that each student brings to our community. While many aspects of students' lives are different, the attention and care they receive from their teachers have not wavered. Our faculty and staff have prioritized communication with students and families and implemented ways to keep track of students who are struggling. NGFS teachers are exceptional at nurturing student success. They work together to address not only academic concerns but also the genuine feelings of frustration, isolation, and grief that so many of our students are wrestling with at this unique and challenging time.

In the last week, we have heard from many families that as we near the end of the year, learning from home is getting more and more difficult. Spring fever is something our talented, experienced teachers are accustomed to; we set academic priorities and balance these with the rewards of extra time outside, classes held outdoors, or the planning of celebrations. This year, the pull of nature is combined with palpable frustration and grief for spring as our students knew it, and the rewards we can offer are not nearly as appealing. In response to parent and teacher concerns for our students, we have made the difficult decision to end school a week early. **Our last day of school for all students will be Friday, May 29th.** Carolyn, Tanisha, and Lisa will be providing end-of-the-year details early next week. We've gathered some resources and included them at the end of this letter; we hope they are helpful.

Last week, we introduced the work of the Task Force for 20-21, stay tuned for an update on this work at the end of next week.

We wish the mothers in our community a Happy Mother's Day!

Let us continue to hold all affected by these challenging times in the Light,

Kim

- **Children's grief in coronavirus quarantine may look like anger. Here's how parents can respond.**
- **Even the mellowest teens are raging against the pandemic quarantine. Here's how to help them cope.**
- **How COVID-19 Could Affect Kids' Long-Term Social Development.**