

Proctor to Continue Remote Learning through End of School Year

Commencement and reunion both postponed

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Proctor Academy

A version of this information was sent to current parents, students, employees, alumni, parents of alumni on April 6. Our hope is this information updates the greater Andover community on Proctor's response to the COVID-19 crisis. We know the absence of Proctor students on campus this spring and the future void left by Gordon Research Conferences this summer has had, and will continue to have, a significant impact on local businesses. Our sincere hope is that come September, Proctor's campus will once again be alive.

All of us have experienced unprecedented disruption in our lives, all of us are struggling to come to terms with this new rhythm of learning, work, family, and community. It presents challenges, and while we have worked to adapt it has been difficult to find comfort in any of this.

The one silver lining seen are the small acts that make the fabric of a community whole; moments of kindness and appreciation seem to be cropping up all over the place. We wish someone were keeping statistics, because those acts might show an exponential growth that perhaps would ease the dislocation and worry of the pandemic state. It is through this lens of hope that we share the following updates.

Remote Learning will Continue

Proctor students and faculty are now more than a month into our remote learning model this spring. The feedback from parents, students, and faculty has been overwhelmingly positive.

Yes, there have been challenges, but the resiliency of the Proctor community has never been more apparent than it is right now. With the predictions we are seeing, the rise of COVID-19 in this country, and the almost unanimous recommendations across states that residents stay home, with the closing of schools and universities that at one point looked temporary and now seem permanent through the end of this academic school year, Proctor has made the decision to not bring students back to campus this academic year. It is not the decision we want to make, but it is the decision we must make for the well-being of this community and the communities around us.

Commencement is Postponed

This is the biggest disappointment of the term for our seniors, but under no scenario that we could imagine would gathering in such large numbers be sensible, feasible, wise, or potentially even legal. But, we will celebrate the Class of 2020 with a virtual graduation ceremony on May 30.

The school is also exploring options for a potential late-summer gathering should it be responsible to do so. We are not wholly sure what that celebration might look like, but we will be exploring all options. While alternatives may not have the same feel as walking across the stage in late May, when we are able to celebrate the Class of 2020, the emotions will be the same: the hugs, the handshakes, the music, the sense of pride our faculty and staff have in the growth of our students will be more intense than ever.

Reunion 2020 is Postponed

In line with our decision to postpone graduation, we have also made the difficult decision to postpone Alumni Reunion 2020. We will be communicating directly with alumni already registered to return to campus in June, as well as to those in the classes ending in 0s and 5s.

As we work to keep Proctor's educational mission and our relationship with students at the forefront of what we do, our partnership with each of our families is critical. This is not the first time Proctor has faced a challenge of this magnitude in its history. The Great Depression saw the ingenuity and commitment of its faculty, staff, and students evolve Proctor's educational model. The social and economic unrest of the late 1960s and early 1970s again saw the school shift, radically changing the school culture into that which sits at our core today. A little over a decade ago, we navigated the economic downturn of 2008-2009 by becoming as lean as possible and demonstrating to our students and families that we would deliver on our mission.

Each time we face challenges, we demonstrate our community's resilience. Our world needs Proctor's educational model and the community it creates among our families now more than ever. Collectively, as parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and students, we will find a way through the challenges we face during this chapter of Proctor's history. We will come through this together, and will emerge as a stronger school than ever before. Thank you for being a part of the Proctor family during this time. 

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