



May 29, 2020

Dear George School Day Camp Families,

Over the past several months and as part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, my team and I have closely monitored the latest information and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, federal and local health officials, and the American Camp Association in preparation for our summer program. **After thorough consideration, and out of an abundance of caution for our campers and staff, we have determined it necessary to cancel our 2020 GSDC program and GS Basketball Camp. The George School Equestrian summer program will operate as planned due to lower camper enrollment, and the ability to incorporate increased social distancing and other safety measures into the program.**

All of you have chosen our camp because you know we are a SAFE, fun, and wonderful place for you to spend your summers. We understand that there is a great amount of **TRUST** you put in our camp and staff to keep coming back and we truly appreciate your loyalty.

The last few months have been like a rollercoaster. It has been overwhelming, hopeful, and uncertain. As this COVID-19 pandemic evolved worldwide, it became clear that we were faced with dilemmas. The first was the safety and welfare of our camp, because this disease could potentially be spread throughout our campers, staff, families, and community. The second was how modified this year's camp experience would have to be because of all the changes we were making in response to safety concerns.

As we implemented the guidelines into our plan, we found we would be forced to cancel many of the programs and activities our campers come to camp for. The camp experience was becoming more "Non-Camp" than camp. We would have had no team sports, swimming, GSDC Olympics, trips, performances, and anything that would put campers within 6 feet of each other. The social dynamic of the group would be changed as well because campers could not have fun all together.

George School Day Camp prides itself on "Community" and all of the events we get to create and do together makes the CAMP EXPERIENCE. It becomes difficult to create a friendship when you have to be 6 feet apart and cannot high five or hug when you have a great moment or breakthrough. Helping your campmate off the ground when falling off the low ropes course becomes impossible to manage. Counselors cannot stop a crying 4-year-old while being 6 feet away.

The greatest moment of camp for me happens each morning when all of the campers arrive with their huge smiles and happy laughter expecting another great day. This is sad and will be greatly missed this summer! We will miss watching all of the campers having their "Ah Ha" moments. We will miss watching them grow so much over just a few short weeks. And I will certainly miss the

looks on their faces when I tell them to swim in the dry water (lane 4) during swim. Camp is special and that is why my staff and I LOVE being part of your campers' experience. All of us that have had the camp experience know we are fortunate to have some of the friendships for many years that came from camp days.

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned many lives upside down and the last thing we wanted to do was to tell you we were canceling camp, but we have to for this season. Please continue to be safe, smart, healthy, and take care of your families this summer. This too shall pass and we look forward to having an even more incredible camp next year as we all come together at the George School Day Camp!

For those families who have already registered for our summer program, we will, of course, work with you to provide full tuition refunds or rollovers to our 2021 program. [Please use this form to let us know which you would prefer](#), and we will process your request as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your patience through this uncertain time as we went through this process. Please accept our deepest apologies to all of our campers, families, and staff who were counting on us to brighten up their lives during this difficult time. George School Day Camp thanks each camper, staff member, and camp family with all of our heart for your continued support as we close the page for this summer and start to plan for the 2021 camp season.

In Friendship,

Mike Bailey

GSDC Director