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MEMO: After-School Programming Update

Dear TFS supporter,

The Fishing School has been agile, intentional, and focused in their response to the COVID19 outbreak. While schools have been closed for public health and safety, TFS has recognized this as an opportunity to develop virtual programming that allows us to carry on our mission and strive to achieve our programmatic goals. TFS understands how emotionally challenging this pandemic has been for our students as we stay home, and we are encouraging students to stay engaged and supported in the following ways:

- Providing information and resources to families
- Adapting and developing virtual program to meet the educational needs of our students
- Engaging external partners to support distance learning
- Professional development of staff

Our program has continued to provide out-of-school time activities that reinforce and complement academic programs in several ways. First, we have made sure to help connect our parents with vital resources to support their children's education. We began by providing each of our enrolled students with credentials to access our online-learning platform, Intelliseeds, which provides practice in several subjects including math, reading, logical reasoning, and critical thinking - skills essential to the success of every student - at home; through this platform we can provide parents with custom reports on their student's performance. We have also shared information from DCPS, DC BOE, and other city resources to help our families access tools and technology required to engage in distance learning.

Additionally, we are providing afterschool programming to parents and students online via videoconferencing software. We have taken all necessary and possible measures to secure our virtual environment. These measures include requiring all meeting participants to enter a password to join the meeting. All attendees are admitted after review by programs staff, and content from programming is securely stored on TFS servers. Our instructors continue our regular curriculum by leading students through online activities, including interactive fitness dance, college and career readiness, Read Aloud, career exploration, STEAM, tech club, financial literacy and yoga. We are also utilizing Epic, a digital library which offers access to over 4,000 books, in support of our reading curriculum. We are extremely excited that we have been able to continue daily afterschool programming for our students.

We have been able to continue program by working around the clock to prepare and equip our staff with the tools, training, and knowledge needed to engage our students and parents online until further notice. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, TFS launched a virtual platform to provide interactive training and professional development for our OST staff. Our Program Manager has worked with Site Managers to develop a robust professional development calendar that is preparing staff for virtual facilitation of program in addition to training that will get staff ready for the eventual return to regular program. Staff have engaged in program planning, personal professional development, and program related lessons.

Our commitment to our students and community remains as steadfast as ever in this challenging time. The Fishing School is proud of our staff that has dedicated time, effort, and resources to ensuring that our mission carries forward and our students are provided the intellectual, social, and emotional support they need at this time.

In service,

Leo Givs  
Executive Director

