

March 12, 2020



Waters Community,

This is a message from the Waters LSC, composed of administrators, teachers, parents and community members. We want to acknowledge everyone's concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic and provide you with local updates from our last LSC meeting.

First, CPS is coordinating and directing all official efforts at managing this situation. All parents should ensure that they are receiving emails from CPS and that they are regularly checking the CPS website for updates: cps.edu/coronavirus. As always, sick students and employees should stay home and consult their healthcare provider.

Secondly, at this time we do not have any known cases of Covid-19 at Waters, however, we are working to control the effects of the virus as much as possible. As Principal Kipp reported at the LSC meeting on Tuesday, March 10, we have been taking additional steps at Waters. Out of an abundance of caution a group of parent volunteers come to the school last week with extra cleaning supplies and organized a taskforce to clean reach areas, desks, and any other hard surfaces. They also put posters up around the building. Those volunteers will return to sanitize the same surfaces again, in addition to work being done daily by our teachers and staff. Teachers have been reminding students of handwashing and using dryers in school and incorporating coronavirus into certain curriculums to discuss both the science of viruses and to help students navigate the anxiety they may feel socially and emotionally about the pandemic. We have received some supplies from central office, including a hand sanitizer that is now located at the main entrance, and we have placed an order for additional supplies through the district. Of course, we are still accepting donations so please reach out as they will be welcomed. We have had to reschedule some events, such as the recent Redwoods Literacy Presentation and we may have to reschedule future events. We are following these protocols to try to keep the virus out of the building.

Parents, we want to make sure the school has correct emails and phone numbers on file in case the administration needs to reach out to you – contact the office at 773-534-5090 if you are not receiving emails and robocalls already. A gentle reminder that everyone should practice good hygiene at home and school – wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, avoid touching your face, avoid close contact with those who are sick, and cover your cough or sneeze.

As LSC members, many of us have already seen the impacts that this pandemic is having through cancelled work trips and requests to work from home. We therefore recognize that this is and will continue to affect the lives of many in our community. Thank you to the teachers, staff, and parent volunteers working hard to keep the school running and putting themselves on the frontline of this pandemic.

In closing, we ask that we stand together and recognize that this will impact the most vulnerable of us the hardest. Please keep everyone in our community in your thoughts and whenever possible heed the calls for supplies that may come through our Circle of Help, which provides for those in our community who have the greatest need. They can be reached at circleofhelp@friendshipcenterchicago.org and on Facebook. Lastly, as CPS has been reminding us, we should be careful not to stigmatize anyone who becomes ill with the virus or countries/communities associated with current outbreaks as that will only hinder efforts to help everyone. Together we will emerge from this as a stronger community.

Signed,

The Waters LSC