

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parent,

As I emphasize in our parent updates, the safety of your child from the dreadful Covid-19 virus is our highest priority. I am relieved to report week after week that all of our children are in good health. But their mental wellbeing is of almost equal priority and once again I can report on a good week of activities and a superb weekend of “Ryder Cup” golf. If you recall, last weekend we had eighty students competing in Alternate shot matches and then Better Ball. This weekend we did a four-person Scramble with eighty students and then finished with Singles, which were incredibly competitive, with most competitors being scratch or better. Scores tightened at the end, with the winning team scoring 57 points, then 53 points, 51.5 points and 47 points. As mentioned, playing for your partner and team members is so motivating, a taste of what the students will experience when they play for their college golf teams.

Next week, team competitions will be in the evening. Activities include tennis, beach volleyball, dodge ball, kick softball, and soccer. Then in early May we will have our second 54-hole WAGR ranked event for our better players and in parallel a tournament for those that don't qualify to play in this WAGR event. IJGT had hoped to host their annual TOC event, which has AJGA stars and JGS ranking points, but all junior golf events are still on hold in the US. Therefore, even just hosting a WAGR ranked event is unique, perhaps not just in the US but in the World! Although the children don't need much reminding, our coaches motivate them in the understanding that they are part of a select few junior golfers in the world who have the opportunity to continue to be coached, develop their games and compete in competitive junior golf events.

Now into our seventh week of “lock-down” Florida stands at 30,000 cases with 1,000 deaths (two thirds in the Miami / West Palm Beach area), with our Lake County rising from 204 to 210 cases over the last week, the smallest weekly increase since we exercised our lock-down. From my understanding, the timing to return to some normalcy very much depends on frequent testing. Three drive through test sites opened last week in Lake County, at a cost of \$20 per test. This is good to see, not that we expect it for any young student athletes, but there is no reported shortage of hospital beds or respirators in our county. But I cannot offer any advice on when restrictions will be lifted and then on when we are able to consult with you on your children leaving our property and going to stores, restaurants or theme parks. My expectation is that we are still many weeks away from it

being safe and there are even medical experts who are warning of a second wave during the flu season in the Fall and Winter months.

On the education front, we are proud of the progress that we have made in ensuring students grades are good, with now only five students on our “watch” list, down from twenty-five students a week ago. For those doing online studies, we are pressing them to stay ahead of their schedules. The evening Study Hall continues to be a success and we appreciate our Seniors who volunteer their time as tutors to younger students. Last summer, we made the decision to recruit three “Educator RI’ s”, all with teaching backgrounds. This has proven invaluable with online schooling. In a meeting last week, we commented that although golf is our core activity, we have always placed an emphasis on Academic support and, in student life, on Character and Leadership. Over these last few weeks, although the golf facilities and golf coaches continue to be very important to our students, the Academic support and Character / Leadership of our peer group have risen in prominence, in overseeing the online studies and in our student leaders setting excellent examples in leadership, in organizing the evening and weekend activities, enthusing their fellow students to participate. I am so proud to write about the spirit of our students who are a joy to be amongst as well as an inspiration to our staff.

Next week we will ask our students to write our usual monthly reports back to parents, giving you their impressions of academy life during the Covid-19 crisis and expressing their appreciation for all you do for them.

Best regards,

Andrew Summers (CEO)