

October 2020

Greetings from Montezuma,



Even as we approach another wave of infections in the United States and greater restrictions on gatherings in New Mexico, we find ourselves in an enviable position. Our testing and prevention systems are working, students are learning and growing, and we are privileged to be living our commitment to the power of education as a force for good each and every day on campus. All but 23 students have joined us for an in-person experience, and the ones studying remotely have demonstrated tremendous resilience and genuine gratitude. A wonderful story on the face of it, but I want to dig a little deeper.

I want to take a moment to identify one of the main reasons our school has managed the pandemic as well as we have: our hard working support staff. While schools are rightly focused on teachers and students in carrying out their mission and programming, there is a whole, often invisible, network of individuals who engage the mission and make possible the programming students and teachers engage. This network keeps spaces safe and clean, drives students to and from health appointments and airports, feeds everyone without fanfare three times a day, listens to students' frustrations and challenges, dispenses medications and Band-Aids, makes sure our computers and remote sessions are keeping us connected, crunch the numbers to make sure we can live up to our scholarship commitments, and keep our campus safe and secure 24 hours a day.

During a pandemic, many of these individuals would be considered essential workers, especially for a congregate setting like a boarding school. Most can't work remotely. Those who must be on campus have to take extra precautions that make their jobs more time-consuming and difficult. And, as always with support staff, they get less attention the better they do their jobs.

One key measure of our movement is the extent to which we honor those who make the movement possible. Our support staff makes our mission and programming possible every day.

We are grateful for their life work, in service of those who benefit from the educational access and excellence we provide.

With gratitude for service, in all of its guises, visible and invisible,

Victoria