



March 18, 2020

*"Loving, Learning & Leading Through this New Chapter in God's Story."*

## PCCE Community

Below you will find our first edition of the "**Prairie Page**." We intend to publish this regularly during the Covid-19 pandemic as we walk together through this new chapter in God's story. It will include three "bite-sized" sections: **Loving** (for all), **Learning** (for teachers) and **Leading** (for principals, assistants and boards).

We hope to help you grapple with:

- How do we continue to be peculiar teachers?
- How do we continue to lead in a way that our Christian school communities flourish?
- How do we continue to show the radical love of Christ?

"Perhaps you were born for such a time as this." Esther 4:14

Our PCCE staff is also being given the opportunity to work from home, so if you need to contact us, please do so directly:

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## LOVING

We are hearing regularly: "these are unprecedented times." And this usually is connected to negative events such as the price of oil dropping, church services cancelled or the amount of toilet paper people have accumulated. How about if we, the Christian community, (us and our school communities) match these unprecedented times with unprecedented love? Where we are the ones to offer to shop for our elderly neighbor. Where we keep our physical distance but are intentionally emotionally connected to the more vulnerable in our communities. What if at the end of the pandemic, people

said: "That was really tough, but the church (US) was a real light in the darkness?"

### Think of it this way:

- Every hand that we don't shake becomes a phone call that we place.
- Every embrace that we avoid becomes a verbal expression of warmth and concern.
- Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, becomes a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise.

## LEARNING

**WOW!** - how your life has changed in the last 5 days! Rather than take up your precious time with more information (you probably feel like you've been drinking from a fire hose!), we want to let you know that we are in the process of creating an **online collaborative community** for teachers to share best practices, effective tools, hints & tips with your PCCE colleagues in other schools.

Our hope is that this will be a vibrant space for Christian teachers to support each other in how to continue to offer excellent Christian education amid these new realities. It will be hosted through Slack and we hope to have it up by early next week.

## LEADING

I have heard about "schools closing" and parents beginning to "homeschool." Words matter! And as written, neither of these statements is true! Instead, it is important to emphasize that classes are cancelled, rather than schools being closed. Our buildings are closed, but learning & teaching (school) will continue. Be conscious of using this language in your school's communications, both formal and informal. To reinforce this idea, it is important to be clear that parents are not expected to homeschool. In a homeschool environment, parents are responsible for the three main components of teaching: **planning, delivery and assessment**.

In the current situation, teachers will continue to be responsible for the planning, possibly some of the delivery, and the assessment. Have conversations with your teachers about these aspects to help clarify their roles & responsibilities and so they can help with the messaging. Parents will be participating in the delivery of the program but teachers will continue to be responsible for the planning and assessment, and possibly some

delivery.

The above distinctions are important for a couple of reasons:

They more accurately describe the situation and should ease some of our parents worries about their role.

If parents think that schools are closed and they now are responsible for homeschooling, they may begin to wonder why they are paying tuition/fees. Or they may move from your school to an online school. We, of course, do not want these situations.

