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Academy of Richmond County
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Musketeer Students,

Just last week I walked through each classroom in our beautiful school. Classrooms that under normal circumstances would have been filled with students and their teachers. Memories of the people and experiences that make ARC great flooded my head and my heart. The experience of these memories were both joyful and painful at the same time. Please know that I miss each one of you dearly and that ARC is not the same without the students and the staff that make it such a wonderful place to both learn and work.

The toll exacted by the Coronavirus has been steep. Parents and students have been homeschooling while also juggling work and the responsibilities of everyday life. Family members have lost their jobs, food insecurity is real and some have even lost their life or become seriously ill during this pandemic. Quarantine has left us all drained and grasping for activities, entertainment, resources and respite. The initial excitement of the unexpected break from school back in March has worn off and for most of us it has simply become a bitter memory. We miss people. I miss people. I miss our people. Seniors, this was supposed to be your year. Prom, sporting events, senior trips, senior week, graduation and more. This was THE year that was the culmination of all of your years of schooling. But it was taken from you. Most people want know what it feels like to have their Senior Year stripped from them, you on the other hand, will never forget.

Despite all this, I can offer some encouragement. Right now, you have the power to make the most of this unprecedented, unfortunate and unfair situation. You are resilient, smart, selfless and strong. You have the ability to connect in real and virtual environments that adults struggle to navigate. You have the energy and ability to help one another and your family. Use this unique time wisely, use it to learn, to grow and to serve. You can be great, you can view this time as "A Day On, Not a Day Off." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., speaking before the Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1968, had this to say about this type of greatness: *"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

We have a long and unknown road ahead of us. We will be together again. And when we are, all of us will encourage a little more, smile a little more, embrace a little more, and take a deep breath as human contact will no longer be a thing to fear.

I wish you all a safe and joyful summer,

On! On! ARC!

Jason Medlin

Principal

