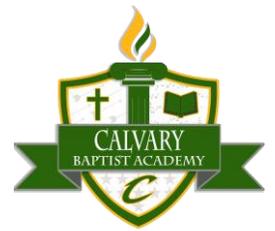


# CALVARY BAPTIST ACADEMY

9333 Linwood Avenue  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71106



**March 27, 2020**

Dear CBA Families:

I pray this letter finds you all well and safe during this difficult, unprecedented time in our nation. It's very difficult for me to process all that is happening with this COVID-19 pandemic. Through scripture, prayer, and love from my family and friends, The Lord has reminded me over and over of His goodness. Many scriptures are being shared with one another during this trial and that is so good for our souls. Philippians 4:6-7 has continually come to my mind throughout the past couple of weeks. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

## **Academics**

This crisis has only made me, as well as Calvary's faculty and staff, even more determined. Our mission is clear. During this critical time in our country, our world – it is even more crucial that we train future generations "To be arrows of truth and light". We must be united in our efforts to provide the best *biblical worldview education* possible for all Calvary students.

We cannot – most importantly Calvary's students cannot – allow this process to be halted due to this challenging period in our nation's history. All academy staff and parents must remain steadfast and united in expectations for our students. Together, we can provide the guidance needed to enable these future leaders to succeed.

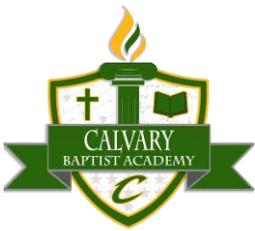
Please consider, all assignments being provided by teachers during this time are a crucial part of the learning process. Even the smallest assignment provided is specifically planned to advance each students' development of Grade-level Academic Standards. Therefore, it is imperative that students continue with the standards-driven instruction being provided by teachers during this Shelter in Place Order!

This focus on use of *standards* will ultimately aide in preparation of our students' long-term goals of *ACT testing* and college/career readiness. While it has been necessary to cancel *Aspire Testing* for Spring 2020, we remain determined in our commitment to provide *data-driven instruction* for our students. We realize that there may be gaps in students' knowledge of all standards being introduced. Staff is currently reviewing numerous testing instruments available – from diagnostic, to periodic, to benchmark testing.

Our plan is to finish this year strong and then have tools in place at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year to help identify our students' specific weaknesses and skill deficits. We will be prepared to meet the needs of Calvary's diverse student population!

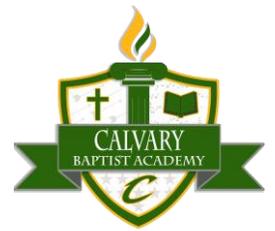
**BUILDING CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER**

RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY ~ SPORTSMANSHIP ~ SERVANT-LEADERSHIP ~ INTEGRITY



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Calvary Baptist Academy serves many students. Improvement and enhancements to curriculum and facilities will vary from elementary, to middle, to high school. Still, we are determined to move forward with increased focus on the use of *Academic Standards*, and continued development of programs and resources that will aide all Calvary students in reaching his/her full potential. Our mission is clear, our team is strong, and we are led by Almighty God! We will prevail!

Please remember – we want to help! Do not hesitate to contact your student’s teacher if you are having difficulty or need clarification on an assignment! For all other needs, please contact an administrator.

## Tuition

We understand there are many intangibles that students are missing during this time of distance learning. We also realize that some CBA families may be experiencing unexpected loss of income, so we have been working this week to determine the best way to help CBA families through this difficult time while still maintaining our capacity to provide the academic experience we all want to return to very soon.

Calvary Baptist Academy has had the same financial plan since it was founded in 1969. Knowing that we do not have access to tax dollars, a trust fund, a financial sponsor or a line of credit, we have had to operate on a disciplined budget. Our only sources of income are tuition & fees and occasional gifts from those who love CBA.

The goal of our budget is to keep tuition as low as possible, while paying our great teachers a reasonable salary. Building a surplus into the plan would be inconsistent with that goal. We are a non-profit in the truest sense of the word.

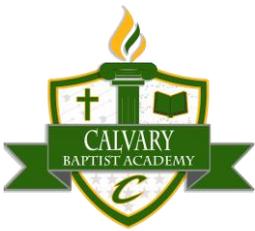
In our 50-year history our community has been through some difficult economic periods. But we have made it, and we think God has had something to do with that. We know He will see us all through this time as well.

Given the explanation above on our dependence of tuition and fees to operate, we still wanted to find a way we could provide some financial relief to CBA families during this time. With much prayer and discussion, we have decided to reduce tuition for the month of April by \$200 for each student in K5 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This gesture of appreciation and understanding of these trying times is being made with full trust The Lord will provide. We understand clearly this decision means CBA could potentially go without expected income of \$70,000 - \$75,000. We mention the word “potentially” because again, we fully trust The Lord will provide.

We decided not to reduce tuition for high school students at this time because we believe the disruption to the educational process isn’t compromised at the high school level to the extent that it is for elementary and middle school students. Many high school students are accustomed to completing assignments online and may actually benefit by expanding their capacity for online learning as they prepare for college courses. Furthermore, High School students are more independent and do not require the childcare or supervision our younger Cavaliers require.

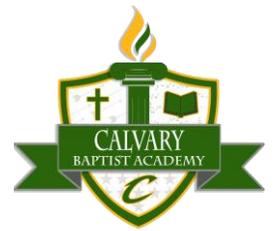
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Allow me to be selfish and move on to more important (just kidding) matters than academics and money. I love your kids and miss them like crazy! I miss the high-fives, handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, flying shoulders, and students yelling "Mr. McDowell, Get U Some!" I miss seeing all the great smiles and hearing laughter from the best students on the planet. I miss doing cartwheels on the playground with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and then in the middle of the classroom with High Schoolers. I miss spending time in the classrooms watching students learn and I miss playing games with them in PE and at recess. I miss spinning the basketball on a student's finger, hitting an inside the gym homerun in wiffle-ball, and sure enough miss dunking on 5<sup>th</sup> graders. In fact, I think I may take a moment and watch that one-minute video again (<https://vimeo.com/391810929>). ☺

I miss watching five different sporting events in one night. I miss the post-game celebrations where I make an attempt to sing, dance, and holler Yee-Yee-Yee-Yee until I turn purple. I miss hearing elementary students each morning saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the flags and Bible. I miss hearing Mr. Fitzwater and multiple students give morning announcements and pray for our school. I miss everything about walking the campus and getting to visit with the students and teachers of CBA. And, of course, I miss, miss, miss taking pictures of your great kiddos and sending them to you through text. I am planning to pick up where I left off the second we are all back together!

I am praying daily we are back on campus on the scheduled date of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Whether the date stands or is extended, just know when we do get the all clear signal to return, Chad McDowell is liable to be slap dab in the middle of Linwood Avenue taking pictures, videos, and yelling Get U Some to all my best friends, the CBA students.

I still have so many questions regarding this COVID-19 pandemic. When will it peak? How long will it last? How long will it take our economy to recover? What will the new normal look like? If we are not careful, we will find ourselves down and out with a negative outlook on the entire situation and life in general. I encourage you to read and apply Philippians 4:8 where Paul writes "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

In closing, I want to give you one more scripture of encouragement. John 16:33 "I have told you this so that you may have *peace* in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." GET U SOME! We have VICTORY in JESUS!!!

Grateful,

*Chad McDowell*

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