## From the Desk of Miss Wilber April 16, 2021

It has been a challenging week for our school community. We announced the Board's very difficult but prudent decision that we cannot keep NECA open for the 2021-2022 academic year. The students seem to be handling this disappointing news very well though they are sad. I thank you parents for talking to them before they came to school on Monday. The faculty and I have expressed to them that it is okay to be sad or upset and that we need to be understanding and supportive of each other as we all process and grieve. We may be fine at one point and not at the next, and the same goes for our friends. We can expect this and work through it all together.

We will be focusing on two words to make the next couple of months as enjoyable as possible – gratitude and hope. Not only can we be grateful for all of the past experiences we have had at NECA but for all the ones we will continue to have between now and the end of the school year. We can be grateful for what we have learned, for our teachers, for our friends, and so much more.

We can also look forward with hope. Hope that we will find another great school. Hope that we will meet new people and make new friends. Hope that our gifts can be used in another place, maybe even in better ways than we have used them at NECA. Hope that all that we have received from our time at NECA has prepared us for the next chapter of our lives. The root of our hope is the love of God that is unchanging and ever-present. Change is an inevitable part of this life, but God is constant. He will be with us wherever we go, whatever we do.

The highlight of this week was the fun we had as a whole school on Wednesday afternoon. We played improv games and had frozen treats. The weather was perfect, and we had a lot of laughs. We will do our Rocks and Minerals Museum right after school on Monday, April 19, since we could not do it today due to the weather. We will still be having our work day tomorrow, April 17, from 10a - 1p. We welcome volunteers!

Please know that I appreciate all of the messages of understanding and encouragement over the past week. Let me know if you have any questions or need help making this educational transition for your family. I am here to serve all of you in any way I can. It is truly my pleasure.

Sincerely, Miss Wilber