

October 3, 2014

Dear SMART families,

Nearly three weeks since the chemistry lab accident at SMART, we wanted to communicate some updates regarding the condition of our scholars, and our plans for moving forward with regards to staffing, course credits, and safety.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is always front and center in our minds – never so much as in the days and weeks following this incident. We are happy to report that three of the four injured scholars are back in school and Dominic's condition continues to improve.

Dominic's family is so grateful for the support they have received from all of you. We continue to make sure that students and staff have access to ongoing counseling support, and we maintain close contact with Dominic's family. They are regularly in our thoughts.

We are deeply inspired by our students, families, and staff. Our shared community is a model for resolve, healing, and getting stronger together, and we are so appreciative of what each of you contributed to homecoming events, fundraisers and prayer services - events that demonstrate the strong sense of community at SMART and your commitment to our scholars.

As for other matters, Mr. Powell's employment with SMART has been terminated. We will continue with a qualified substitute while we look to permanently fill the position. Additionally, we are in contact with the Colorado Department of Education to ensure that we are maximizing the use of online video demonstrations to allow students to continue their chemistry coursework, and ensure students will earn full credit for chemistry classes through the transition.

In the letter we sent on September 15, we referenced suspending all science lab demonstrations and experiments until further notice. That suspension remains in place. At this time we are working with Denver Public Schools and the Denver Fire Department to ensure that our building meets all safety codes.

We are also bringing on an independent company to perform a school safety evaluation of our entire program, including science labs. Once we have the full report, we will move quickly to implement recommendations and ensure that students are safe and able to focus on learning when they are here at school.

If you have any questions at all about our response to this incident or our efforts to ensure ongoing student safety, please reach out to either one of us. Thank you for everything you are doing to pull the SMART community together, we are deeply grateful for your trust in us, and deeply committed to the safety and success of your children as we all move forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Gibbons
CEO

Antonio Vigil
School Director