

Dear Parents and Members of the ACS Community,

I hope this communication finds you and your family well, and that your children are leaning into and finding some joy in these first days of a very challenging summer. While it has been stated often, it cannot be overstated that all of the planning for the fall opening of school is being made first and foremost with the safety and health of our community members at the heart of every decision. With that in mind, I want to share some of the specific steps the administration has taken and will continue to address throughout the summer and want to provide transparency about our decision-making.

Preparing for the fall: We have established two committees to address safety issues and the scheduling/academic structures needed to open school.

- The “Safety, Awareness, Facilities and Environmental Advocacy Committee for School” (**SAFE ACS**) membership includes:

1. Peter Brown, Assistant Head of School and CFO
2. Andrew McCormick, Director of Facilities
3. Rose Ciccione, School Nurse
4. Dr. Julia Espel, ACS parent, Pediatrician and Pulmonary Specialist
5. Dr. Raj Goyal, ACS parent, Trustee, and expert in Public Health issues
6. Lauren Evans, Early Childhood Teacher
7. Katie Arnold, 1st Group Teacher
8. Donna Wetta, Science Department Chair
9. Caer McCabe-Wild, ACS parent, and HSA President
10. J.P. Ramirez, ACS parent and HSA Vice-President
11. Neola Edwin, ACS 8th Group student and Student Council President

- The Academic and Curricular Scheduling (**ACS**) membership includes:

1. Lisa Wiltz, Head of Lower School
2. Gwen Cooper, Head of Middle School
3. Kristen Teague, Associate Director of Admissions, Registrar, former ACS teacher and Head of Lower School
4. Denise Clivaz, French Department Chair and scheduling advisor
5. Adam Metcalf, Physical Education Department Chair and scheduling advisor

These committees are meeting on a regular basis, with sub-committee meetings, to address the myriad of issues and challenges schools are facing in order to have our students return to school. The committees are also working closely together to ensure that our scheduling options are aligned with our safety protocols. Along with attending many zoom meetings with heads of school throughout the mid-west and Illinois, I have also established a smaller working group of four peer schools (Lake Forest Country Day, Quest, Science and Arts, and Catherine Cook) to share and compare ideas, challenges, options and plans for the fall. **Our ultimate goal is to open school on time and in-person on August 27th.**

Transparency through Communication: This leads to our plans of communicating in more detail the specifics of what options are being implemented and what plans are being considered.

- HSA will host two “Town Hall Zoom Meetings” with parents and our administration this summer. The first one is scheduled for **next Wednesday, June 24th, at 9:00 am** (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87470168989?pwd=UGQ0VCtlZHdOK1R1QXRYNHR1Nm90UT09>). The agenda will include sharing some of the potential opening of school scenarios, hearing from Peter Brown and Andrew McCormick about the many initiatives being taken to ensure the safety and health of our students and community, and a Q and A session with members of the administrative team. HSA will be sending out a communication tomorrow with more details. Also mark your calendar for a second Town Hall Zoom on **Wednesday, July 22nd, at 9:00 am.**

(
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82526434494?pwd=VDBNVFZFTVNIY3ZqaU0dmJYZExRQT09>)

- ACS News will continue this summer every other Thursday. To support regular and timely communication I or members of my administrative team will send out a Thursday message in-between the ACS News communications. Note—sometimes ACS News goes to people’s junk or spam email, as it is sent through an outside source (Mail Chimp). Please check your email on the scheduled Thursdays and if it is in your junk mail, you can change it to “safe sender” or “move to in-box” pretty easily.
- Both Gwen and Lisa will be communicating to their parents on a regular basis, and as needed, keeping you “in the loop” on critical information.
- We are in the process of creating a “**Back to School**” PDF Plan that, while fluid, will contain much of the information we are providing now and next week, in greater detail, so that all of the information is contained in one, easy to read and find format. Our hope is to provide this plan at the end of June or beginning of July. As you may know, the Governor is looking at late June to make an initial decision of “Phase 4” of the State Plan, which will be an invaluable guide for us to know more about the status of allowing schools to open in August. It will provide us with some of the health and safety regulations, and social-distance guidelines.
- Our plan is to announce a “final plan with details” for the opening of school on **August 3rd**. This is consistent with many peer schools, and gives us the flexibility to improve and modify our plans if the landscape changes in July. It also is timed with our July 22 Town Hall Zoom so that we can further explain and answer questions as opening day approaches. While our plans will include many options and variables, **let me repeat that our intent is to open school on time, and in-person!**

I am very grateful to all who are working tirelessly this summer to support our community. Even while on break, our faculty is meeting every week to assist the ACS committee and support each other in their academic planning. Our tech team is continuing to prepare training sessions for students and parents. Our support

staff and admin team are working every day, and our maintenance team is doing extra duty on a regular basis to ensure that our campus is safe. And many parents, including your HSA leaders, are communicating and working closely with the School practically every day to support the community. As always, please reach out to me or a member of the administrative team with questions, concerns, ideas. Your ACS team is here for you, and we are grateful for the support and understanding shown by all of you to all of us.

I hope to see many of you next Wednesday morning!

With warm regards,

Paul

Paul Druzinsky

Head of School