

Dear Parents,

The end of the most challenging school year ever is approaching. It is critical for you to know how the school has responded, what plans lie ahead for the next three weeks, this summer, and the fall, and what has already been implemented on campus. Governed by the principles of our community's safety and health, we have every intention of opening school this fall on campus. My administrative leadership team and I meet every day to discuss and review both what is happening now and what plans are necessary moving forward into the fall. We don't know what the laws and recommendations will advise in late August, but we will plan for all contingencies. In virtually all of our decision-making, we actively and regularly utilize and consult with the resources of:

- [NAIS \(National Association of Independent Schools\)](#)
- [ISACS \(Independent Schools of the Central States\)](#)
- [LMAIS \(Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools\)](#)
- [The DuPage Regional Office of Education](#)
- Peer Colleagues from the greater Chicago area
- Head of School groups
- [The CDC](#)
- [The DuPage County Health Department](#)

In planning for the opening of the 2020-2021 School year, we have put in place or are in the process of:

- Reconfiguring desks and classrooms to meet social distancing guidelines, including providing Plexiglas shields for desks.
- Utilizing the Commons, the PAC, the libraries, and the gym for classrooms as needed.
- Building a bathroom and a negative pressure isolation room next to the nurse's office.
- Constructing a bathroom in the Old Library.
- Hiring two additional custodians to help keep the campus clean daily.
- Allocating \$100,000 from our operating reserve for additional pandemic safety upgrades for the campus, including either remote or hand-held touchless thermometers to take temperatures safely before entering the building, if needed.

- Ordering additional computer tablets to support E-learning, including now being 1:1 in groups K-8.
- Actively exploring and creating blended model options and schedules for both on-campus and E-learning should it be necessary.
- Creating tablet training opportunities for parents and students during the summer months.

These are many of the areas we are addressing as we plan for the opening of school. While the list is both fluid and incomplete, much has already been taken into account with the best information we have available today. My team and I will be working throughout the summer months to continue to refine and improve the plans as new information becomes available, and will communicate with you regularly.

There are still lots of good things happening in the next three weeks! Stay tuned for further detailed communications early next week from Mrs. Lenhardt, Mrs. Wiltz, and our Summer Camp Director, Sally Johnston, regarding:

- Last day of school (Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Spring Fair (Friday afternoon, May 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Graduation (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Pick-up days and Celebration (June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)
- ACS Summer Camp plans, including our new partnership with Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development!

In terms of strengthening our communications, I want to close by sharing that HSA will be hosting its last meeting of the year on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Along with the regular end-of-year school business, my leadership team and I will once again be present and available to address questions and have a discussion as we did last month. HSA will provide more details early next week.

I am wishing you all a little sunshine this weekend before our May snowstorm!

With virtual hugs and appreciation to all,

**Paul Druzinsky**

**Head of School**