

November 18, 2020

Dear Friends:

One week ago today, at our *Town Meeting*, we engaged in a spirited discussion about living and learning at Primary Day in these incredibly challenging times. My thanks to each of you who joined us to share your thoughts and suggestions – in every way, they are much appreciated.

During that conversation, many of you inquired about our decision-making process, the metrics involved and the efficacy of our current strategies for keeping the community safe. While it is true that we have enjoyed a successful start to the fall term, the upward trend of COVID-19 cases in the county, including in those zip codes where our students, faculty and staff reside, together with a positivity rate that continues to climb, require that we adjust our plan for in-person learning.

The decision to make a change at this juncture was complex, data-driven and emotional. As Head of School, my preeminent responsibility is to keep our community safe and, although things continue to go well, I do not wish to ‘tempt fate’. In consultation with both our medical advisory team and board leadership, I have made the challenging decision to suspend on-campus classes, effective at the end of the school day, Friday, November 20, 2020. In making this choice, I wanted to move as expeditiously as possible, deeply understanding that families need time to plan for this type of change. Although I have detailed the specific information below, essentially this modification to our program involves two weeks of virtual learning in addition to those noted in my letter of 10/21, the postponement of two professional days (previously scheduled for 12/17 & 12/18) and a revision to our testing/travel guidelines.

Thank you for your support, understanding and prayers for our community.

Warmly,



Teaching and Learning

- Friday, 11/20/2020 – Last day of in-person learning for all grades
- Friday, 11/20/2020 – Materials pick-up
(*On-campus learners at scheduled dismissal times, off-campus learners – 3:30-4:00PM*)
- Monday, 11/23 - Friday, 11/27/2020 – Thanksgiving Recess
- Monday, 11/30 - Friday, 12/18/2020 – All students learning virtually
- Thursday/Friday, 12/10 & 12/11/2020 – Materials pick-up (*Schedule to follow*)
- Monday, 12/21 - Friday, 1/1/2021 – Winter Recess
- Monday, 1/4 - Friday, 1/8/2021 – All students learning virtually
- Monday, 1/11/2021 – Potential return to on-campus learning

Travel and Testing

Governor Hogan recently announced a travel advisory “strongly recommending” Marylanders avoid non-essential travel out of Maryland to states with high COVID-19 positivity or case rates. As it is abundantly clear that these guidelines will change as data is received, we have **revised our requirements** as follows:

- The testing requirement for students, originally scheduled for the week of 11/29-12/5, has been rescinded. Faculty/Staff testing will proceed as scheduled.
- Student/Faculty/Staff testing remains a requirement for the week of 1/3/21-1/8/21 with results to Mrs. Hendrickson, our school nurse, by noon, Saturday, 1/9/2021. No students will be allowed on campus after 1/10/21 unless the School is provided with a current negative result/report within the required window. This must be a *non-rapid PCR test*. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be exploring on-campus options for student testing and will update families prior to winter break.
- Effective immediately, **any** Primary Day student, faculty or staff member returning to Maryland from travel to **any** state outside the DMV, must be tested immediately upon return to Maryland and remain quarantined at home until a negative result is obtained. The test must be a *non-rapid PCR test*. Non-student family members are encouraged to follow current state guidelines for out-of-state travel which are noted below and can be found on our website at *Welcome Home* which will be updated to reflect current information.

“Any Marylander returning from out-of-state should either get tested for COVID-19 promptly upon arrival in Maryland or within 72 hours before travel to Maryland. Any Marylander who travels to a state with a COVID-19 test positivity rate above 10% should get tested and self-quarantine at home until the test result is received. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are exempt from this recommendation.”