



Dear St. Michael's Parents and Families,

I hope all of you are doing well as we move past the midway mark of the summer.

Thank you to those of you who responded with such thoughtful questions and comments to our summary Covid health-and-safety plans sent last week. For those who may have missed it I have included the same summary attached with this week's email. As noted, these decisions represent two-plus months of diligent and careful planning, with the guidance and support of our Board of Trustees, the medical professionals in our Covid planning group, and our administrative team. I am grateful to all of them, to our faculty, and to all of you, our families, for your sustained care and love for St. Michael's School these past five months.

The most important thing to note for now is the change with our scheduled start date, from Friday, August 14, to **Monday, August 17**. We will keep Friday, the 14th, open as a transition day for families who have decided, or perhaps will have decided, to begin the year at St. Michael's with distance learning, or as a transition day for all families in the event the State requires all schools to begin the year online. While we have the flexibility to make our own decisions about in-person campus attendance (that is, unless we are otherwise limited by State or local authorities to decide when we are open for business and when we are not), we are likely to follow the same federal, or State, or local guidelines when those decisions are driven by broad concern for public health and safety.

As we continue our extensive planning efforts for August and the coming academic year, please note, below, an overview and timeline for weekly communications from us through mid-August.

July 13-17. Detailed draft plan for 2020-2021 sent to all families, with a follow-up survey to determine individual family plans for the start of the year, at-home or on-campus.

July 20-24. SMS-hosted webinars for Q&A with the Head of School, School Nurse, Upper and Lower School directors, and medical professionals from the planning group. We plan to host four (4) webinars, two each for Lower and Upper School families; these will very likely take place in the evenings to accommodate family schedules.

July 27-31. Communication this week will focus on updates and further details for the start of the year, moving as well toward a more complete picture of individual family plans for the fall, online or in-person.

August 3-7. Updates TBD.

August 10-14. As noted earlier, we will keep Friday, the 14th, open as a transition day for families who have decided, or perhaps will have decided, to begin the year at St. Michael's with distance learning, or as a transition day for all families in the event the State requires all schools to begin the year online. This is the week that faculty and staff return for in-person prep to begin the year.

August 17-21. This is, at present, the first week for distance-learning and / or on-campus life to resume.

We stand by our decisions to date and believe we are proceeding as reasonably and as swiftly as we can. We have stayed as current as possible with the emerging innovations and guidelines for independent schools, and we have invested considerable time, care, and financial resources to date in preparation for the coming year. At the same time, we want all families to make an educated choice for the coming year, with the best interests of your sons and daughters in mind.

Again, thank you for your continued love and care for St. Michael's.

Brendan Sullivan

Head of School

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