Parent Meeting

July 23, 2020

*Oak Meadow will deliver its official **Return to School Plan** on August 14. The plan will be a "live" document, adapting to health and safety recommendations as they change and evolve and accessible at any time on the OMS website.*

Overarching Goals

Oak Meadow is planning to re-open campus with health and safety as a driving priority. Our Return to School Plan is founded in minimizing risk while, at the same time, making every effort to continue providing a rigorous academic program that is true to our Montessori values.

The opening of the 2020-2021 school year will be using a blended approach of bringing students back to campus for engaged, in-person learning as well as online/at-home learning for those who need this for their families. Although we have space to welcome all students back to campus, we respect that not all families may choose that at this time.

Health and Safety

The OMS health and safety policies and protocols are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). We intend to meet and exceed the standards recommended.

- Masks for all adults and masks for students in Lower Elementary (beginning in grade 1) and up with "mask breaks."
- Rigorous handwashing protocols will be in place. (All students will receive lessons in effective handwashing.)
- There will be specific protocols developed around both arrivals and dismissals to minimize exposure to each other.
- Oak Meadow will staff a full-time nurse (Nurse Katie) and is making facility accommodations for a nursing suite to include three isolation rooms for potential positives.
- We are still developing protocols for how we will handle a positive test in the Oak Meadow School community.
- Students will belong to small cohort groups with a dedicated teacher. The students will not be cross-exposed for any activity during the day.

- There will be minimal sharing of supplies/learning materials. Anything that needs to be shared will have protocols around sanitizing.
- There will be protocols for the use of the playground to minimize exposure to each other.
- Although guidelines recommend a minimum of 3 feet physical distance between students, Oak Meadow has enough space to meet the more stringent recommendation of 6 feet between students, seat to seat.
- Because students will not be mixing across cohorts, we are still developing plans for special subject learning.
- We are still developing plans for Before and After Care and how to manage that safely.
- We are fortunate to have enough physical space in the building to spread out and will also take advantage of our outdoor learning spaces as much as weather permits.
- All classrooms have windows, and those will remain open to maximize ventilation whenever possible.
- The building's HVAC system has been equipped with special filters to maximize clean filtration of the air.
- All spaces used by people in the building, especially every classroom, will be sanitized nightly with an electrostatic cleaner.

Educational Purpose

- We are putting in place rigorous measures to make students and families feel safe so that learning can be a focus.
- Teachers are committed to the relationships with students and parents and will remain flexible to support the individual needs of our families. Individualized and personalized support from teachers will guide each child's development, whether they are at school in-person, or learning on-line.
- Regardless of our circumstances, Oak Meadow will continue to uphold our North Star beliefs about education and will strive to provide a valuable and enriching program for our students.
- We will continue to uphold the structure and routines that students need to feel safe.
- Technology has been an essential component in adapting our learning to meet the challenges of the pandemic. Teachers will have time to master new systems and technologies to take on-line learning to the next level of effectiveness.
- Communication-- especially between teachers and parents will continue to be a priority. We will continue to offer meeting times for parents to communicate needs.
- Because it will be almost six months since students have been physically in school, we expect and are prepared to support the emotional challenges around the transition back

to school. Oak Meadow will continue to be intentional in supporting the social-emotional needs of our students.

OMS Community

- Oak Meadow has dedicated an enormous amount of time, energy and thought to make sure that the community is safe. We need to embrace a shared sense of responsibility and being part of a broader community. We need to have confidence in our fellow parents that we will do the right thing to keep each other safe. We are all in this together.
- The governor of Massachusetts has recommended that families limit travel to New England, NY, and NJ within 14 days of the start of school in-person. Families who travel outside these states will need to participate in on-line learning during the 14-day quarantine.
- Be responsible about not sending your child to school with any symptoms of sickness. Because symptoms of allergies can look like symptoms of COVID, please make sure that you give Nurse Katie documentation from a doctor if your child has allergies so that he/she is not sent home when exhibiting symptoms.

Q & A

- We continue to monitor recommendations for temperature checks; the decision on whether these will be required will be made soon.
- Remote learning - Teachers are individually developing remote learning plans for families that choose to keep a child home.
- We are developing a plan for substitute teachers to ensure there is no mixing of substitutes across cohorts.
- We are not currently planning to use face shields.
- Specific protocols for positive cases are still under development and will be shared soon.
- Collaboration is an essential part of an Oak Meadow education, and teachers are creatively working on ways to create opportunities for students to work together while staying within the parameters of health and safety protocols.
- Assuming that there is physically enough space in the classroom to accommodate more students, families who choose remote learning will be able to transfer to campus when they are ready. To minimize disruptions in the classroom, this will occur on the Monday closest to the 1st or 15th of the month.