



## THE TATNALL SCHOOL

Friday, August 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience this summer as we have developed our plan for the start of school in September. After extensive internal discussions, advice from medical professionals on the health committee, and informed by continued communications from the Governor's Office, I am writing to share details about the opening of school.

### **Our reopening plan is as follows:**

- Tuesday, 9/8, will be an orientation day for students. Division heads will share specific information about the schedule for the day. Please note that Early Childhood orientation will be held on Wednesday, 9/2.
- **On Wednesday, 9/9:**
  - **Five days a week, in-person school will commence in Early Childhood and the Lower School, where we can adhere to stable cohorts within a grade level.**
  - **A phased-in hybrid reopening will commence for Middle School and Upper School students.**
- Middle and Upper School students will alternate between two days of in-person instruction and two days of virtual instruction (at home). The Middle School will start in-person on Wednesday, 9/9, and Thursday, 9/10, while the Upper School will be in a virtual learning mode those two days. On Friday, 9/11, and Monday, 9/14, the Middle School will switch to virtual instruction, and the Upper School will be in-person. After solidifying protocols and safety guidelines to our satisfaction, our goal will be to end the hybrid period on Friday, 9/18, and welcome all Middle and Upper School students back safely to campus on Monday, 9/21.
- Why are we phasing in Middle and Upper School students? There are many reasons, but first and foremost, our top priority remains the safety and well-being of the students and the faculty and staff.
  - Middle and Upper School students share a building; thus, the in-school division will benefit from using the whole building, if needed, during the two-week phase-in period.
  - Simply put, we want to make sure that what looks good "on paper" is faithfully executed in actuality, for the safety of your children and our faculty and staff. We have a high degree of confidence in our safety protocols; however, given that we have never had social distancing, for example, on an actual school day, we want to execute it well (in hallways, bathrooms, getting lunch, etc.) with a smaller group of students before we enact it with a larger group.
  - The hybrid approach will allow us to test and refine our virtual instruction early in the school year. Should we have to go to fully virtual teaching at some point, we will have the benefit of these September distance learning days "under our belt."

### **Looking Ahead**

- Please join me for the All-parent Zoom on Tuesday, 8/11, at 6:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

- On or about Friday, 8/14, we will send you our *Tatnall Reopening Guidelines*, which will contain in summary form a wide variety of already-shared details as well as additional information regarding start of school procedures.
- As with prior updates, I must stress the fluidity of this situation. The more we all practice--and encourage others to practice--the *3 Ws of Wear your mask, Watch your distance, and Wash your hands*--the safer our community will be.
- As mentioned previously, should you feel that your child will be unable to attend in-person school, please contact Nurse Mary Garrett at [marygarrett@tatnall.org](mailto:marygarrett@tatnall.org) as soon as possible. We have the technological capabilities to provide curriculum and instruction for students who need to remain at home.
- To that end, I remind you to please be mindful of the risks of traveling to states with higher rates of COVID. In addition to increased chances of contracting the virus, there is also the possibility of having to quarantine should Delaware reinstitute its out-of-state quarantine.
- Please expect Planning Update #6 from me by Monday, 8/24.

During this final month of summer, please enjoy your valuable family time while staying safe and healthy! Thank you very much for all of your support and partnership, and please contact me at [andymartire@tatnall.org](mailto:andymartire@tatnall.org) or (302) 892-4282 if you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a small dot at the end of the "y".

Andrew D. Martire, Ed.D.  
Head of School

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