



From: Nancy Mellon <nmellon@riverschool.net>

Date: Mon, May 18, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Subject: News on Timing, Camp and Fall

To: Nancy Mellon <nmellon@riverschool.net>

Dear River School Community,

I very much appreciate the individual conversations we've had with parents over the past month or so and for your helpful input through the parent surveys. We are working diligently to incorporate your feedback into the Distance Learning program and are grateful for your patience and support. We've worked to evolve our post-Spring Break "emergency remote learning" into a more robust Distance Learning Plan that we can implement when we need it. We all prefer The River School the way it was. The goal is to return to our pre-pandemic state, but the road ahead is still full of uncertainty.

DC Mayor's Update

You may have seen that the DC Mayor's office extended the stay-at-home order until June 8. Practically speaking, this means we will need to remain out of our building for the rest of this school year. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held virtually on the regularly scheduled dates: June 4 and 5. You'll receive a link to sign up soon and can expect a modified Narrative Report on June 3.

Summer Camp

Given the uncertainty of when the city will officially re-open, and so you can adjust your plans, we are going to do the prudent thing and cancel Camp River. For those who have already signed up and paid, you will receive a full refund. Our camp director, Capi Anderson, will be sending newsletters to registered campers over the summer filled with activities and suggestions for summer fun.

2020-2021 School Year

I know one of the biggest issues on all of your minds (it's top of mind for us, too), is what will happen in the fall. I know each of our families is also thinking about the value proposition of paying private school tuition during these uncertain times. We are considering various reopening scenarios taking into account risk levels and families' comfort with them. I can tell you that we very much want to be back on campus in September, that we are continually monitoring guidance from the city, legal and medical advisors, and association leaders, actively searching for a nurse or service, proactively reducing class sizes, and stockpiling PPE, cleaning equipment and supplies. The city is prioritizing early childhood programs for reopening. We plan to be over-prepared when we do get the go-ahead to reopen the school building. You can help us prepare by making sure that your child is up to date on all vaccines, including one for the flu, as these will be required before a child can come back to school.

Decision Timing

Although I would love to be able to make a decision about September now, it simply isn't possible. A lot could happen between now and Labor Day, and the best we can do at this time is to envision a variety of scenarios about reopening. At the association level, school leaders are talking about everything from being 100% on campus to some combination of in-person and Distance Learning (for those who prefer it for health and safety reasons). We are committed to reopening as soon as we can safely do so. We will keep you up to date on what we are learning in the coming weeks and months.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me and the administrative team if you want to talk about your child's experience at River and ways we can improve it. We want to hear from you.

With gratitude and thanks,

Nancy