



Lower School Reopening Letter

Mark Hansen, Head of Lower School

Dear Lower School Families,

We are excited to share additional details about the 2020-2021 school year below. We will continue to share details with you between now and the start of school as well as specific information for each grade level.

School Start

The Lower School will begin the school year with the schedule below. We are utilizing this schedule to provide students and faculty the opportunity to learn the many new routines of being back in school with numerous changes to what they have become accustomed to in our Lower School. During Week 1, each grade will be on campus one day and will have opportunities to meet with their teacher and classmates virtually for Morning Meeting or other community building activities throughout the remainder of the week. During Week 2, students will be on campus more frequently, with opportunities for online school experiences on the days they are not attending class in person. The first day of school is different for each grade, so please review the schedule below to know which day your child starts:

WEEK 1: AUGUST 25-28

- August 25: Grade 2 and Grade 4, plus Explorers (small-group)
- August 26: Grade 5 and Kindergarten, plus Explorers (small-group)
- August 27: PreK and Grade 1, plus Explorers (small-group)
- August 28: Grade 3 plus Explorers (small-group)

WEEK 2: AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 4

- Monday: Explorers (all), PreK, Gr. 1, Gr. 2
- Tuesday: Explorers (all), Kg, Gr. 5
- Wednesday: Explorers (all); PreK, Gr. 3, Gr. 4,
- Thursday: Explorers (all); Gr. 1, Gr. 2, Gr. 5
- Friday: Explorers (all); PreK, Kg, Gr. 3, Gr. 4

Please note: A detailed Explorer schedule will be sent to all Explorer families for these first two weeks of school.

WEEK 3 and MOVING FORWARD

Our goal beginning the week of September 7 is to have all Lower School grades on campus. We will be closely monitoring the first two weeks and make any adjustments necessary.



Students Enrolled in Online Learning

Parents selecting the online option for their child(ren) will be enrolled as a student in a homeroom class. She/he will participate in a variety of homeroom class lessons including daily Morning Meetings, some synchronous learning lessons, co-curricular classes (when possible), and a Closing Circle to end the day. They will also be assigned an associate teacher who can assist with questions she/he may have during the day with a cohort of online students and offer online support during school hours.

The Pod Environment

All Lower School homeroom classes will be in “pods”. Pods will have a class size between 6-13 students with one teacher. Co-curricular teachers will come into the homeroom pod to teach their classes or take the class outside for instruction.

Virtual Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social will take place virtually on Monday, August 24. Teachers will meet with their students via Zoom from the classroom. This will be an opportunity for children to say hello to their new classmates and teachers and get a peak at their classroom through a virtual tour. Teachers will be sending individual Zoom links for these gatherings as we get closer to the date. The schedule will be as follows:

- 4:00-4:45 p.m. (Explorers, PreK, Kg, Gr. 1)
- 5:00-5:45 p.m. (Grades 2, 3, 4, 5)

Masks

All students (and faculty) will be required to bring a mask to school and wear it at all designated times. Masks will be worn inside the building, except for eating snacks and lunch. Logos on masks are acceptable, but beyond the logo masks must be free of slogans, graphics and writings. To help make sure each mask’s owner is easily identifiable, please write your child’s name on them to ensure proper hygiene and that no one accidentally wears another person’s mask. With this in mind, we would appreciate masks that are light in color. Students who forget to bring a mask will be provided a disposable mask by the school for the day.

Lunch and Snack

Lunch and snacks will take place in the classroom. The dining hall staff will deliver lunches to the Lower School and teachers will plate and serve all food. Snacks will be provided and may be eaten in the classroom or outside during a break according to individual class schedules.

Recess

Recess time will be taken within the pod group. Teachers will supervise her/his group of students and will share a variety of games that support social distancing. We look forward to exploring our expansive campus of 231 acres even more this coming year!

Arrival Details

Students may arrive at school between 7:45-8:05 am. Doors will remain locked until 7:45 am and parents arriving before this time must wait in the carline until supervision begins. Students will go directly from their car/bus into their homeroom class.

Dismissal Details

Students will be dismissed from classrooms to CASE, bus or carline. We will be using a system called School Pass that will alert teachers when specific cars arrive on campus. Students going home through the carline will wait in their individual classrooms until their ride arrives. Details regarding *SchoolPass* and how to register your vehicle will be sent home in a separate communication.

Parent and Visitors

At this time, parents and visitors will not be able to enter the Lower School. If you need to meet with your child's teacher, counselor, or administrator, it will be scheduled via Zoom.

Birthdays

Birthdays will continue to be celebrated at school. If a parent or guardian wishes to participate, they are welcome to join the celebration via Zoom. Any treat brought into the school must be pre-packaged and individually wrapped with a list of ingredients. A reminder that we are a nut-free school.

Supply Lists

In addition to the [Lower School Supply List](#), all students need to bring a water bottle to school each day.

Lockers

Hallway lockers will not be used in the Lower School. Students will keep all belongings, including jackets and boots, inside the classroom. Please mark all items with your child's name.

Class Homeroom Lists

In order to provide maximum flexibility in the creation of class lists, they will be distributed to families on Friday, August 21.

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding.

[Mark Hansen](#)

Head of Lower School

