



Dear St. Anne's School Families,

We open this communication exceedingly grateful for your patience and support, not only as St. Anne's School has responded to the effects of our public health crisis on all aspects of school life, but also as we determine the most prudent course for the School as we head into the 2020-21 school year. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, which provides important information about the upcoming academic year.

Scenario Planning for the 2020-21 School Year

First and foremost, we want you to know that, without a doubt, St. Anne's School of Annapolis is committed to opening on September 1, 2020. We do not know how this crisis will continue to unfold and affect school life, and so we are approaching fall with the responsiveness and agility characteristic of our School. In this light, our Pandemic Response Task Force, comprised of members of the Board of Trustees, Head of School Lisa Nagel, Head of School Elect Andrea Weiss, and our administrative leadership team, have been tirelessly engaged for the past month in scenario planning for the Fall of 2020.

Every decision the Pandemic Response Task Force makes is guided by these key principles:

- prioritizing the health and safety of our students, staff, and families;
- ensuring the delivery of a robust, comprehensive, and mission-consistent educational program;
- demonstrating fiscal resilience and responsibility; and
- promoting equity and underscoring the dignity of every person in all our efforts.

Throughout this crisis, the School has relied on the direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Maryland State Executive Orders and staging announcements, and the Anne Arundel County Public Health Department. Under this guidance, subgroups of the Pandemic Response Task Force have further engaged in research around best practices as it closely examines and refines a full range of policies, procedures, and operations in designing a promising path forward in the fall.

Teaching Models for the 2020-21 School Year

The academic leadership subgroups of the Pandemic Response Task Force developed three models for teaching and learning next year: place-based, Virtual/Distance Teaching and Learning (VDTL), and a hybrid of place-based and VDTL. We are prepared to "mix and match" our models to deliver the safest and most robust curricular program to our students. We will continue to refine these models across the summer, reflecting on our distance learning work to date, in order to select and deploy as robustly as possible the model required as circumstances dictate.



The rapidly changing circumstances around the crisis not only demand our flexibility, but also our patience in intentionally delaying decisions in order to optimize teaching and learning. We all hope that we can begin the school year with place-based teaching and learning, as this model allows us to deliver our program in the most comprehensive fashion. We will remain attuned to the evolving guidance for schools, directives from the state and county, as well as the needs of our community in making decisions for the fall. We will continue to provide the most detailed information possible about the nature of the start of the school year throughout the summer.

Model 1: Place-Based Teaching and Learning

- In this model, students and teachers return to campus, with modifications to integrate enhanced health and safety procedures. These modifications may include:
- alterations to arrival and dismissal procedures;
- changes in supply lists to limit supplies shared between students;
- wearing masks or other PPE;
- schedule modifications to reduce student movement between classrooms during the day;
- postponing large group gatherings, such as All-School Chapels and Lower School Morning Meeting; and/or
- creative solutions for space within and outside of the building.

Model 2: Virtual/Distance Teaching and Learning

As a safer-at-home/stay-at-home order remains possible for periods of time during the next school year, we are reflecting on our experience from this spring, learning from colleagues around the world, and engaging in professional development surrounding VDTL. Our faculty reimagined their curriculum and ways of teaching to meet the needs of our learners in a remote learning environment. This speaks to the strength and dedication of our faculty to deliver the exceptional St. Anne's School learning experience in this new environment.

Our faculty will continue to reflect in a professional setting this summer on our experience this year. We will explore modifications to schedules to enhance student learning and will focus on the development of units of study that are optimally designed for distance learning.

Model 3: Hybrid Place-Based and Virtual/Distance Teaching and Learning

Guidance and directives around the number of students who may be in a classroom or on campus may change over the course of the year. While many of the procedures and modifications from the place-based teaching and learning model will be relevant in this model to ensure student, faculty, and community health and safety, additional modifications may be required. In this model, modifications to schedules may be necessary, taking into consideration both place-based and VDTL activities simultaneously. A great strength of our program is our ability to differentiate learning, and as we move forward with any hybrid programming it will be with this concept at the forefront of our practice.



We recognize the enormous strain this public health crisis is placing on all families. Hardships are never equally distributed. We know the pandemic has created financial uncertainty for some members of our school community. The School has a financial aid program for families who qualify for assistance. If you are experiencing changes to your family's finances due to the crisis, please contact Leslie Edinberg, our Assistant Head of School for Finance, Advancement, and Operations. She will discuss our financial aid program with you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or concerns. We so value your partnership, flexibility, and understanding as we strive to protect the health and well-being of our community and remain focused on our educational mission. We are eager for our students to return to campus this fall, and we will be ready for them when they arrive.

Lisa Nagel

Head of School

Andrea Weiss

Head of School Elect

Hutchey Doley

Chair, Board of Trustee

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