

## OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

June 25, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope your summer is going well. Earlier today, the Commissioner of Education released the Initial Fall Reopening Guidance for Schools. It's a 28-page document that we have already begun to review. Some of the guidance and recommendations are reflective of the modeling we have been working on for weeks.

The reopening guidance requires schools to develop three models:

- In person learning with safety requirements (Classrooms have not been limited to 10 students).
- Hybrid learning models that utilize a cohort model to isolate two distinct cohorts of students who attend school in person on an alternating schedule.
- A remote learning model.

We are committed to maintaining academic excellence across all three models.

In alignment with the Commissioner's guidance, it's our plan to fully reopen Austin Prep to the extent permitted by the regulations. There are two aspects of the regulations that, at this point, seem non-negotiable:

1. Students and staff will be required to wear masks.
2. Social distancing will be required by a minimum of 3 feet. (The 3 foot distance is a recommendation of the World Health Organization).

Anticipating that the reopening guidelines were going to be complex, Austin Prep retained the services of a consulting firm with expertise in epidemiology and public health administration. The firm is conducting a full assessment of Austin Prep and will issue recommendations to us that comply with the framework of the Commissioner's reopening guidelines. The consultants from the firm conducting the assessment for Austin

Prep have experience advising the United States Military in managing infectious disease control, occupational health, occupational safety compliance, environmental health, and food safety. The consultants hold degrees in biology, public health administration, and epidemiology.

Over the next several weeks, the leadership of Austin Prep will be working with our consultants to develop a plan to safely return to school. This is a very complex process involving considerations such as HVAC systems and ventilation, pedestrian traffic, occupancy, disinfecting and cleaning procedures, health office protocols, and food safety. Many schools are reevaluating their 2020-2021 academic calendars to maximize flexibility in the event schools will be required to close again and implement a hybrid or remote learning model. We are considering that as well.

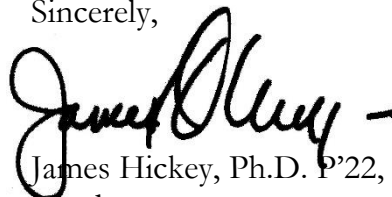
Regarding athletics, we have received no communication or update from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), though I suspect guidance will be forthcoming after the MIAA has had an opportunity to review the Commissioner's reopening guidance.

I know in previous years by this point in time, we have shared student schedules, orientation information, athletic schedules, and other details. All of this, however, has been delayed as we awaited the release of the Commissioner's guidance to reopen schools. I appreciate your patience as we develop an action plan that will keep the Austin Prep community as safe as we can. Please keep in mind what has been released today is preliminary and I expect additional guidance will be forthcoming.

The health and safety of everyone in the Austin Prep community is paramount and while no school, including Austin Prep, can completely eliminate all public health risks, we take our responsibility for health and safety seriously and will do everything we can to make sure all of our decisions are guided by mission.

I look forward to being in touch with you again around July 20th. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to be in touch with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hickey", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

James Hickey, Ph.D. P'22, '23, '24  
Headmaster