

June 30, 2020

Town Hall

Fall 2020 Re-Opening Update



“The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends that “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” Schools, it says, “should weigh the benefits of strict adherence to a six-foot spacing rule between students with the potential downside if remote learning is the only alternative.”

SOURCE: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Reopening Plan

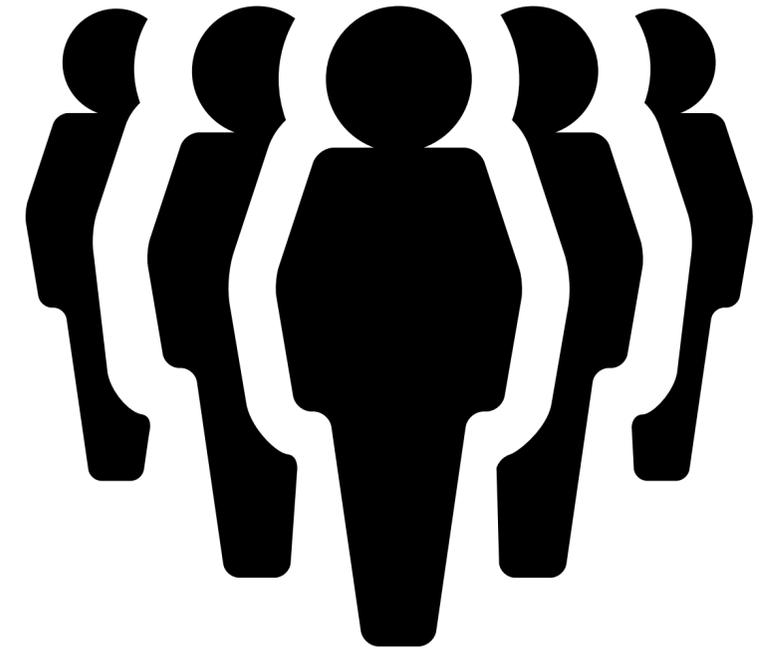
Key Components

- Health and Safety First
 - Reduced density of students and faculty on campus for first half of year, hope to increase over quarter 3 and eventually all majors on campus for Q4.
 - Our plan is built on the idea that reducing density reduces risk. This allows us to ease back into on campus programming and distribute students, faculty and activity across the entire campus without having all 300 students and 100 faculty and staff returning at once.
 - Flexibility is built in to the breaks between each quarter in order to accommodate quarantine restrictions as well as travel and cleaning and sanitizing of spaces.
 - Quarters should reduce the potential disruption if a second wave occurs and schools are ordered to close by the Governor.

Reopening Plan

Returning to school in Major Cohorts

- Cohort Rotation
 - All majors will have a minimum of 2 and ideally three of four quarters on campus. Overall our hope is to provide all students three quarters of approximately 9 weeks each for a total of 25-27 weeks on campus.
 - Last year, semesters were 16 weeks long for a total of 32 weeks.
 - Revised daily schedule is in process which will utilize opportunities for consistent synchronous meetings for online students and add additional meeting classroom and studio times for students when they are on campus in the afternoon.
 - Option for students to stay on campus between breaks if they are unable to return home.
 - All program offerings will be able to shift from on campus to online if needed at any time. Many classes will be taught in a hyper flex model with some students meeting in person and others joining online.



	1st Quarter (8/24 - 10/21)	Break (10/22 - 10/30)	2nd Quarter (11/2 - 1/27)	Break (1/28 - 2/5)	3rd Quarter (2/8 - 4/2)	Break (4/5 - 4/13)	4th Quarter (4/14 - 6/18)
Dance	Dance 70 Total		Dance 70 Total				Dance 70 Total
Music			Music 72 Total		Music 72 Total		Music 72 Total
Theater	Theater 55 Total				Theater 55 Total		Theater 55 Total
VA			VA 70 Total		VA 70 Total		VA 70 Total
WFMA	WFMA 27 Total				WFMA 27 Total		WFMA 27 Total
Total On Campus	152 Total		212 Total		224 Total		292 Total

Reopening Plan

Two Program Options: Hybrid or Online

- We recognize that families want options for the fall.
 - We have proposed two: a hybrid option and an online option.
 - The hybrid program prioritizes both health and safety and the in-person experience. It will include both on-campus and online classwork.
 - Walnut Hill Online students will participate from home and take all of their arts and academics classes in a specifically designed online program.
- The hybrid program is designed to make use of the on-campus resources needed to experience art making and learning as a collaborative exercise while also ensuring student engagement.
- What happens online is designed to provide a high level of engagement, virtual collaboration, and individual growth.
- Families have the option to choose either program.



Reopening Plan

Tuition

- Walnut Hill has made the decision to not increase tuition over the previous stated tuition and fees schedule.
- We have spent considerable time calculating tuition given significant increased costs for the 2020–21 school, including reduced density requirements, additional cleaning, increased technology purchases, and health and safety needs.

WALNUT HILL HYBRID PROGRAM TUITION

Day: \$49,990 (assumes 3 quarters day/1 online)

Boarding: \$62,290 (assumes 3 quarters boarding/1quarter online)

WALNUT HILL ONLINE TUITION

Online: \$49,990 (assumes 4 quarters online)

The tuition fee is calculated at \$12,497.50 per quarter for day and online and \$16,595.00 per quarter for boarding.

Reopening Plan

Faculty and Staff Professional Development

- All teaching faculty are required to complete two online professional development modules through Global Online Academy
- IT Department conducted extensive training on using our LMS (Learning Management System) as well as tools to facilitate online learning.
- Committee of teaching faculty have drafted a preliminary set of Best Teaching and Learning Practices for all classes and programs.
- Individual departmental PD will occur based on needs of departments to use technology-specific tools to deliver program.
- Planning for additional tech purchases including equipping classrooms and studios with the ability to provide remote instruction.



School Calendar and Travel

- We recognize that the calendar change presents challenges for everyone but the health and safety of our entire community is of utmost importance. Our first priority was to maintain as much class time over the year as possible while reducing density on campus.
- Arrival dates are based on health screenings, if you have a personal conflict please contact Melissa Cassel (mcassel@walnuthillarts.org) as soon as possible to review options.
- The travel calendar will be published shortly as we finalize our scheduling.
- All travelers arriving to Massachusetts – including Massachusetts residents returning home – are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days, except that, beginning July 1, 2020, travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, and New Jersey arriving in Massachusetts are exempt from this directive and need not self-quarantine for 14 days.

Arrival, Travel, and Campus Permissions

Community Standards

- Borders will be restricted to campus initially. We hope to loosen this restriction over the course of a quarter/year.
- Day Students will be asked to sign an agreement that they will only go to school and home, and follow appropriate social distancing, mask use, etc.
- Travel will be allowed on quarter and holiday breaks. Students who leave will be re-screened upon their return and must be planned based on health screening dates.
- When all students arrive on campus the first time they will have individual screenings with our health center nurses.
- Daily health screenings are required for ALL community members and will be done prior to coming to campus or leaving dormitories through REACH. Training will be conducted during on-campus orientation. REACH will also provide contact tracing for us.

Masks and Social Distancing

- As of today, when we reopen school everyone must wear masks except when they are alone in a private space or outside socially distanced (must have mask with them).
- We are working with local officials around masks for classes that are physically active. Our hope is that we will have to use masks for two weeks then those classes will be able to be treated as a family unit and not wear masks during class however, we will assess this as we have more information and use the guidelines from the state as reference.
- All teaching spaces will be assigned so that classes held in them can be socially distanced based on class size. In addition, we have added four outdoor classroom spaces to be used during the fall and spring, weather permitting.
- The dining hall will provide “grab & go” meals since we will be unable to sit together as we would normally. Spaces to lounge/eat/study/hang out will have enforced maximum capacities and students must socially distance.

Residential Life and Day Student

- We will house students in rooms by themselves for the first and second quarters and evaluate as the first half of the year is completed.
- Double rooms will have students placed in them who are in different majors unless families want to make a specific roommate request and sign a waiver form.
- Students can leave their belongings in their rooms when they are not on campus however we may ask students to organize their belongings in a way to minimize disruption to rooms when students arrive during different quarters.
- For the first two weeks, students will have to wear masks except when alone in their rooms. After that point, residents will be considered a “family unit” and will not have to wear masks in the building.
- We are working on ways to make sure that our day students are connected to campus through activities. We will update families as we finalize our planning.
- We ask that students who can drive or be driven to school do so until we have a better sense of the safety of public transportation.

Activities/Traditions/Community

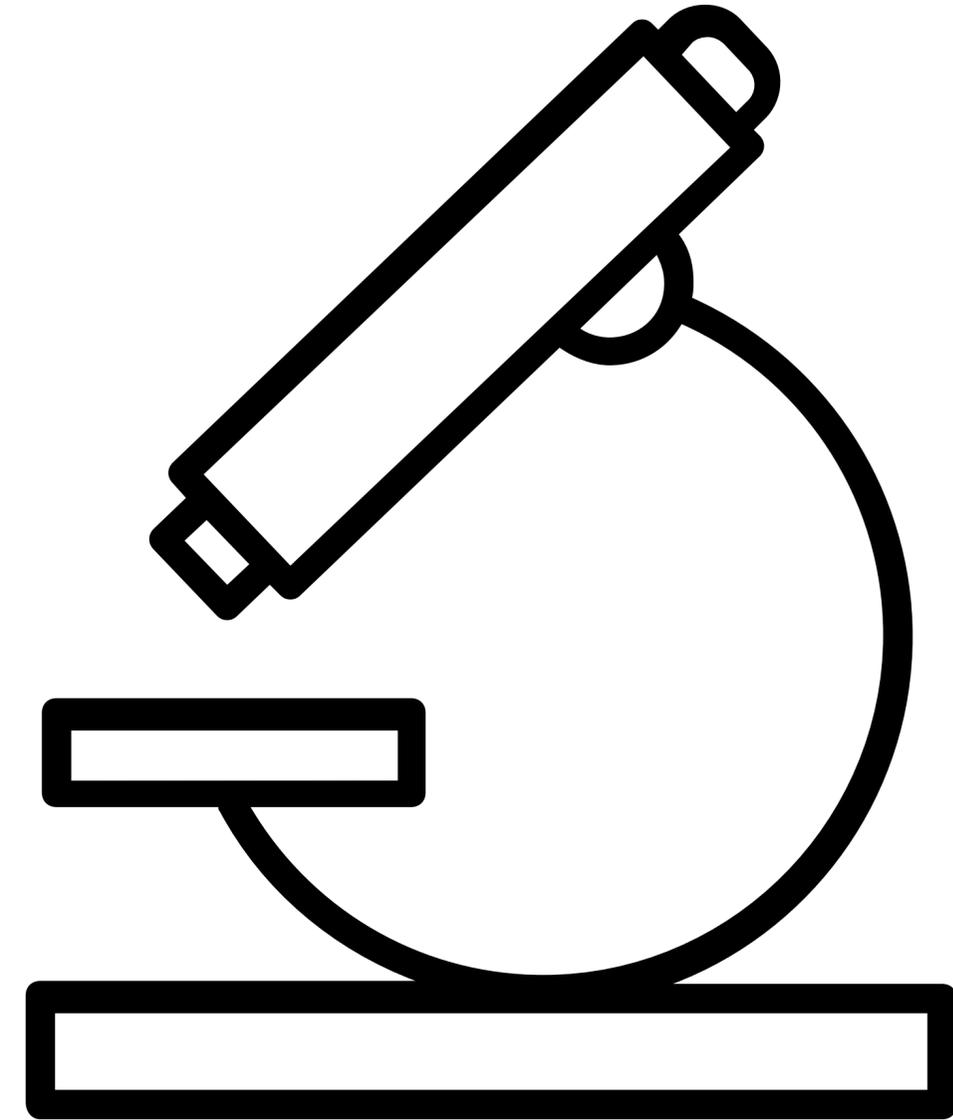
- We are working within state guidelines on max number of people in groups as we plan activities
- We are instituting a new “Buddy Program” for new students. They will be paired with one returning student and at least one other new student in their major to begin the process of community connection.
- Leadership will arrive one day prior to new boarding students (the same day as day students). We will not conduct the traditional leadership week but activities and trainings will be spread out throughout the year.
- Traditions will be different but we are committed to maintaining a vibrant community that brings us new experiences and honors our oldest traditions when and where possible. We are excited that we will be together at the end of the year when the largest number of our traditions occur.

Orientation

- There will be two parts of orientation – Online Orientation for everyone and in-person orientation the first quarter students begin their on-campus activities.
- Online Orientation is being developed to give families ample time to access the information and resources they need at their own pace. The ability to provide orientation information digitally will give families a chance to ask questions as they arise before the opening of school.
- On Campus Orientation will occur after students have completed health screening and moved into their dormitory. Parents will have a chance for small group meetings with Arts Directors and an opportunity to talk with faculty about academics. Students will have orientation about on-campus policies and protocols over the course of two days prior to classes beginning. Some of the events will be required for boarding and day students.

Academic Program

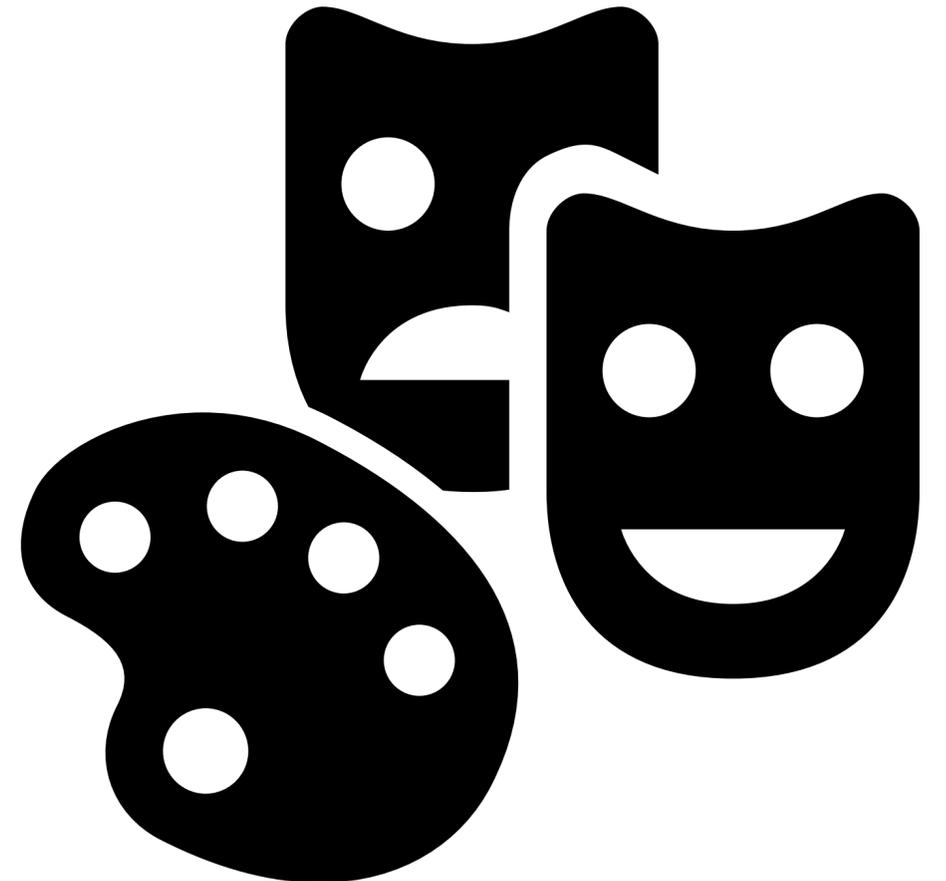
- Full program of 5 credits for the year across all departments with semester courses reframed into flexible quarter-length courses.
- Quarters = 1/2 credit (so most students will take two quarters in each discipline)
- Math will be reframed to run all year long.
- All courses are being rebuilt - both online and on campus - with a balance synchronous and asynchronous instruction to maximize each.
- All teaching and learning next year will include some asynchronous learning. Our hope is to utilize the on campus experience to provide synchronous in-person learning consistent with current guidelines.



Arts Programs

COVID-Safe Training & Performing

- The goal is to get back into the studio and offer a vibrant artistic program across all majors.
- We are committed to giving our students in performance-based majors the opportunity to perform. What performances, when they happen, how they are viewed, etc. are all being determined per the guidelines from State and Local officials.
- Partnerships with NEC and Boston Ballet allow us to extend our programming/access to off-campus locations if needed as well as reduce density.
- Launching "Art in Action Outreach" curriculum as well as an extended Art 360 program.
- We are excited about the collaborative opportunities that arise when the various majors are on campus.



Daily Schedule

- We are working with a consultant on our daily schedule to provide adequate class time, passing time, cleaning time, etc. We hope to have the schedule completed in the next ten days.
- There will be classes held in person while students are on campus as well as on-line courses while both on and off campus.
- The current model creates consistent times for arts and academic classes both on campus and online. All online students will have classes in the mornings between 8am and 1pm. On campus students will have additional class time and programming in the afternoon beginning after 1pm.

Questions