

WALSINGHAM ACADEMY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Walsingham Family,

A few weeks have passed since I last checked in, so I wanted to take a moment to provide a few updates about both what's been going on here in that time and the 2020-2021 academic year.

Work has continued around campus on various projects. Work on upgrading McAuley Hall is just about complete. I can't wait for you all to see it in person.

With social distancing guidelines and quick health screens in place at drop-off, our Summer Daze summer camps have begun. It has been so heartening to see children around campus again!

As for the upcoming school year, we are still operating under the assumption that we will be permitted to allow all students into the building as scheduled. I am asking that, particularly in the two weeks before school starts, you do your best to limit your family's traveling, especially with surrounding states struggling so badly with their COVID numbers in recent weeks.

The administrative team is still hard at work putting together our plans. We are waiting for guidance from officials on a few unanswered questions. As you may recall, we are currently in Virginia Department of Education's Phase 2 and I will be sure to update you all once we are approved for Phase 3. Once we do reopen, our commitment to sanitation—including daily use of disinfectant foggers—will continue. We will also continue to follow guidelines from government agencies, as well as executive orders from Gov. Northam. Our website will be updated with all relevant information as soon as possible.

Given distance restrictions, we will have caps on the number of students in each classroom and some grades are close to hitting those numbers. If you have not yet reenrolled, please consider doing so soon to guarantee your spot.

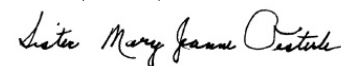
Over the next few weeks before the start of school, I ask that parents of younger students continue to go over hygiene best practices at home. We will have posters throughout our buildings with reminders but anything you can do to instill proper techniques from home would be most appreciated.

As a Walsingham community, we are a team and we are counting on each other to remain free of the virus. I pray that continues.

I do want to end this letter on a very happy note. On June 20, I had the absolute privilege of offering a blessing at an intimate wedding ceremony right here on campus. Our own Admissions Director, Ashleigh O'Rourke, was married to her partner, Timothy, with their immediate families in attendance. It was a lovely afternoon and I am honored to have been a small part of it.

I look forward to welcoming you all back—safely—in August.

All my love,


Sister Mary Jeanne Oesterle

