



Dear Families,

As we prepare to welcome students and their families back to school this fall, I am writing to say a bit more about our plans to deliver the fall semester with as much in-person instruction as possible while conforming to public health guidelines to minimize risk to the health and safety of students and staff. Our faculty and staff are working diligently to craft a curriculum that will be nimble enough to toggle back and forth between on-campus and remote learning experiences, should that be necessary in the coming year.

With this letter we are asking for your informed consent for your child's participation in in-person learning this fall. Your signature below simply acknowledges that you understand the risks, but we are requiring a parent's signature for each student who attends in-person classes this coming year.

The [plan we sent on August 4](#) outlines the steps we will take to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. We cannot, however, guarantee that your child, while in school, will be free from the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. We ask that you partner with us in understanding how you and your child can help reduce the risk of transmission by staying current on information about the virus, provided by public health officials and experts. It will be important that you and your children understand and follow Commonwealth's policies and practices aimed at limiting the spread of the virus. It also is important for you to acknowledge that, by sending your child to our campus, there is an unavoidable risk that you and your child may become infected with COVID-19.

As we have been communicating to you since we went to a virtual format this spring, the school has been following the directives of the Centers for Disease Control and our state and local authorities to guide us as we carry on our work with our students. We refer you to our [COVID-19 webpage](#) to reference useful and important public health resources and the school's prior communications on this topic.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, sneeze, or even sing. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Person-to-person transmission is also possible. The disease is extremely contagious, and individuals may spread the disease to others without feeling sick themselves. As you know, many people are infected and do not experience serious symptoms, but others become seriously ill and even die.

The school has developed protocols for on-campus learning and activities that include requirements for students, faculty, and staff regarding social distancing, wearing masks, hand washing, and other measures to maintain as safe a school environment as possible. We have drafted health screening protocols, as well as guidelines on handling students who test positive with COVID-19, become symptomatic, or are exposed to others with COVID-19. We are also preparing contingencies in the event that an outbreak of COVID-19 requires Commonwealth to shut down. Our protocols will be refined and updated from time to time based on evolving guidance and directives from our state and local health departments and the CDC. We will notify you of these updates and will post them on our website [here](#). We ask that you carefully review these protocols, discuss them with your child, and cooperate with us to promote the safety and

health for all of us at Commonwealth. Given the potential seriousness of the coronavirus, any student who does not comply with measures aimed at keeping our community healthy may be subject to discipline, up to and including removal from the school.

We also ask that if your child or a member of your household experiences any COVID-19 symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, nasal congestion, fatigue, fever, chills, muscle aches, headaches, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell, that you and your child remain off campus until the symptoms have abated and you are provided clearance by a medical professional that you or your child are no longer contagious.

It is important that you understand that even with all of these precautions in place, as a result of being on campus, your child may be exposed to COVID-19 and contract the disease; that your child may transmit the disease to others, including members of your household; and that as a result, your child and household members may experience COVID-19 symptoms, and may require isolation, quarantine, and hospitalization.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we embark on the new normal at our school. Yes, there will be challenges ahead, but we are excited and inspired to welcome you back to campus for the 2020–2021 school year. Please sign below to acknowledge your understanding of the risks of sending your child to campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours,

Bill Wharton
Headmaster

BY SIGNING BELOW, I UNDERSTAND THE SCHOOL'S APPROACH TO ON-CAMPUS LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE RELATED RISKS OF EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS, AND CONSENT TO MY CHILD ATTENDING THE SCHOOL.

Name of Student

Grade

Signature of Student if age 18 or older

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Name