



THE NEWMAN SCHOOL

Office of Head of School

Dear Students and Parents:

We are very excited to begin our school year together. The faculty will be preparing for your arrival with organizational meetings. The school administrative team has been hard at work all summer.

I have heard from a small number of families who are interested in more information about our decision not to require a Covid-19 test prior to arrival. We are listening carefully and want to remain responsive.

At this time, in consultation with our advisors, using the guidance from Massachusetts DESE and DPH, we are not requiring proof of a negative Covid-19 test in order to return to in-person school. We are requiring all faculty and students entering the building to submit their responses to our daily questionnaire for entry. Every person entering the building will also be required to take a temperature test. The plan is based on sound medical advice and scientific evidence. At this time, The CDC does not currently recommend universal Covid testing for the school community.

We will be conducting intermittent testing in pods and groups during the term, and we are counting on everyone's vigilance and compliance with protocols to mitigate the risk that someone in our school community will become infected with the virus. We have conducted a geo map of members of our community (students and teachers) to track our students/teachers in connection with virus data in those communities. We are also working on an app for ease of tracking that we hope to have ready after the second week of school.

The plan allows each of us as teachers/employees to make our decision about teaching/learning in-person or "remote." We recognize that not every teacher will choose to teach in person and not every parent will choose to send their child to school for in-person learning. We are set up for all scenarios, including new conditions such as an incident(s) / case at school.

The Massachusetts DESE and DPH have issued a joint set of guidelines clarifying key health and safety requirements for schools. We will be following those key guidelines in our decision making and handling of any and all health related issues that arise during the school year.

Mike

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