

## **Dear Pike Community,**

This year will present us with new complexities of teaching, learning, and building community. In the face of such challenges, I call upon all of us to embrace our mission and take individual responsibility for our collective wellbeing. *I write today to share important information for you to read and acknowledge prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.* To help us fully live Non Sibi Solum, I offer these Community Agreements as a framework for our year together:

At Pike, we live Non Sibi Solum by...

1. Understanding and fulfilling our new responsibilities as community members
2. Being lifelong learners and adapting our skills
3. Building connections and tending to one another

We are all in this together, so we must all make time to familiarize ourselves with our COVID-19 related policies, make meaning of and commit to memory new information, and find creative ways to take care of one another. As you know, COVID-19 is a highly contagious communicable illness believed to spread through person-to-person interactions. COVID-19 can cause symptoms in any infected individual, though data strongly indicate that older individuals and those with existing medical conditions are at a significantly higher risk of developing severe symptoms and complications. While some individuals infected with COVID-19 may be asymptomatic, they may nonetheless be contagious and spread the infection. Local authorities are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and have introduced mandatory quarantines and other safety measures to protect the community.

School leadership has reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as guidance from numerous other leading health and education experts. We have been and will continue to be working throughout the year to develop appropriate policies and practices, and to implement modifications to our buildings and facilities. To that end, linked to this letter is the School's current COVID-19 Policies, which provide guidance to promote the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. All community members are expected to review and adhere to these policies and protocols, as well as to any updates that the School may issue in the coming weeks and months. It is important that all families, even those who have selected off-campus learning for the first semester, understand these policies and protocols.

As outlined in the [COVID-19 Policies](#), families and students should expect that the campus-based Pike experience will be (and will look) somewhat different than in past years. In addition to required physical distancing measures and physical modifications to our campus and in classrooms, changes will also likely be required to many facets of our program, including the school day schedule, lunch, health services, and extracurricular activities. But as with seemingly everything during this pandemic, circumstances are changing rapidly and Massachusetts's specific school reopening procedures for September may be updated.

Although Pike will meet all applicable safety requirements, so long as COVID-19 continues to spread by community transmission and until there is an effective vaccine, there will be a risk that students could become infected with COVID-19 despite the School's efforts. That risk extends to the families of students as well as others with whom the student may have contact.

**All enrolled families are expected to sign this community agreement by Thursday, September 3, in which you consent to the following:**

- You acknowledge that you have reviewed the School's [COVID-19 Policies](#), and agree that you/your child will adhere to the rules and protocols set forth in those documents as well as any other expectations set forth by the School, and that failure to do so may result in appropriate consequences, as determined by the School.
- You acknowledge and agree that despite Pike's compliance with applicable reopening requirements, there is nonetheless a risk that your child could contract COVID-19 and/or become symptomatic and/or asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19.
- You knowingly and voluntarily assume that risk on behalf of yourself and your child, as well as the risk that such infection could spread to other members of your child's household or family, as well as others with whom the student may have contact.

We recognize that these are uncertain times, and we are committed to our mission of providing our students with an exceptional educational environment. Complying with the expectations set forth in the COVID-19 Policies as well as any other health and safety guidance will require significant additional effort on the part of everyone involved - the School, our staff, students, and families. But we are eager to reopen and see many of you in person again, even if that means wearing masks and physically distancing. If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ashley Marshall  
Head of School