



International School of Kenya

Empowering students to create solutions for tomorrow's challenges

October 9, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update - ISK Reopening in Hybrid Mode - 2020-10-09

Dear ISK Community,

I hope this message finds you well and ready for your children to enter hybrid learning mode.

ISK Starts Hybrid Mode on October 26

ISK is excited to start on October 26th in our hybrid learning mode for all students. Keeping health and safety at the forefront for all thinking and planning, only grades 12, 11, 8, 5, 2, 1, Kindergarten and PK will start the on-campus learning option of our hybrid learning mode on Monday, October 26. As part of our phased-in approach, all other students will be able start the on-campus learning option of our hybrid mode as of Monday, November 2. Each division is gathering data about whether or not your child will be on campus for the start dates above. Please prioritize completing these surveys.

Campus Preparations and Safety Inspection

Since the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we have been busy preparing our campus for an eventual reopening. The systems and protocols that are explained in the ISK COVID-19 Handbook have been operationalized and put into action. On September 30th we hosted a team of Government of Kenya officials for our official health and safety inspection.

Moving into Hybrid Mode

Our internal team has been planning on how to balance and deliver our program so it meets the social, academic and wellbeing needs of our students. We want to blend the best of what we have learned from distance learning with the understanding that on

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campus learning will allow students to safely socialize in person, something that has been missed for many months. Our plan has been founded upon the following values/principles.

Hybrid Model Values and Principles

- **Maslow Mania:** Meeting the personal health and safety needs of our community is our first priority.
- **Relationships Are Foundational:** Building and maintaining strong relationships will be vital for student success.
- **Focused School Priorities:** As we plan through uncertainty staying focused on the biggest leverage points will be important.
- **Amplifying Student Agency:** Over the past six months our students have taken on huge responsibilities with their learning and their life. We want to continue to promote increased student agency,
- **Liberatory Approaches to Equity:** Any decision that we make should be determined with explicit considerations of equity. As we plan, this is an opportunity to examine our systems, structures, and processes, and pedagogies.
- **Importance of In-Person Campus Time:** Students have been missing consistent human contact. We want to ensure that on campus time has a focus on supporting all that has been missed.
- **Iterative Process for Planning and Reflecting:** As we embrace the idea of a *new normal*, we want a planning and reflection process that allows us to make changes based on current feedback and data.

Updated Blueprint for Reopening

I welcome you to review the updated Blueprint for Reopening Document, ([LINK HERE](#)) with particular attention to the ***Transitioning to Hybrid Learning Section*** found on **pages 29-33**.

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Signing Up for ISK's Bus and Food Service

ISK will be running its bus service starting on October 26. All buses will operate within GoK guidelines with half the number passengers than maximum capacity. Buses will be sanitized after each trip and students are required to sanitize and have the temperature taken before boarding. Student food service will also begin starting on October 26. An email asking you to sign up for these services will go out early next week.

Wellness Advice from ISK Counselors

Our counselors have been working and preparing for the arrival of students to come back to campus. Please take a look at some resources they gathered for families.

[\(LINK HERE\)](#)

Director's Tea - Tuesday, 4pm

Be my guest! Please consider attending the Director's Tea on Tuesday, October 13th between 4:00- 5:30 p.m. (*ISK parents should have received the link to register for the webinar*).

Looking forward to seeing students on campus after our October Break!

Be well,
David

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