



Dear Ivywood Family,

We hope you are enjoying the beginning of your summer! Our school feels so empty without students, but we have been busy planning for the fall so we can welcome back each one of your kids safely.

Yesterday, Governor Whitmer announced the State of Michigan's Return to School Roadmap from the COVID-19 Task Force on Education and Return to School Advisory Council. Under the Roadmap, schools will be required to have multiple plans in place to adapt to situations as they arise, and as the state moves between phases over the coming school year. Currently, our region is in phase 4. According to the plan, regions in Phases 1-3, learning will be at home. Phase 4 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, schools must:

1. Require the wearing of face coverings, except during meals and unless face coverings cannot be medically tolerated, for:
 1. All staff when in classrooms.
 2. All staff and all students in grades pre-kindergarten and up when in indoor hallways and common areas.
 3. All students in grades kindergarten through 5 unless students remain with their classes throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in another class. * Students at ICA will remain with their class throughout the school day, and will not come into close contact with students in another class.*
2. Prohibit indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom.



3. Incorporate the Return to School Roadmap's required protocols governing hygiene, cleaning, and screening.

The school day will be more normal when our region is in Phase 5. View the complete Michigan Executive Order containing the Return to School Roadmap here

- https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-533311--,00.html

So, what does this mean for Ivywood? We will share our plans in the coming weeks, so the board and school leadership can adopt the best plan possible. As we actively update our in-person plans, we have enlisted conscientious safety precautions including:

- Temperature checks before entering the building
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing stations
- Floor signs indicating social distancing guidelines of 6 ft. apart, as well as directional signage
- Rearranging school day schedules such as lunch and gym
- Increased passing time to ensure cleaning & sanitization opportunities
- Providing handwashing signs and social distancing reminders across campus
- Training for teachers and staff during pre-planning to encourage hand washing for students and to recognize signs of illness
- Limiting volunteers and visitors in the building to essential staff only
- Limiting field trips and school events when necessary

Though the state has released this plan to reopen school, we know that the status of our region may change overnight or throughout the next few weeks. We are being hopeful, flexible and adaptive as we plan for a safe and healthy return to the school building on September 8, 2020. We are also working to improve our distance learning



plan to give our school staff the ability to pivot quickly and to provide continuous learning for all students.

As promised, we will continue to provide the latest updates over the summer and if you visit us in-person, you will see us practicing the safest health guidelines to maintain cleanliness within the building. We are also in the process of planning the safest way to host our Back to School Orientation Night before school starts, so keep an eye out for a note about that event.

Thank you for all of your support during this time of uncertainty and know that we want nothing more than to see each of our students' smiling faces in the fall! We are open to answering any questions, but please know that we just received this information and we are doing the best we can to openly communicate and find answers and do what is best for our students!

We are in this together and we are here for your family!

Regards,

Stephanie Kooiker

Ivywood Classical Academy, Principal