

October 12, 2020

Dear Ivymount Families,

We have all found ourselves in quite an unusual situation these last seven months! It has been sad, challenging, and heartwarming to share these times with all of you, our staff, and our community of support. The need to restore a consistent and safe school environment for your students remains critical to our school leadership team, our board of directors, and the amazing staff who support your students every day.

The tremendous influence of the school environment on a student's health and well-being cannot be overstated. The school environment creates a safe environment for learning, provides academic instruction, supports social and emotional skills, and facilitates physical activity. Ivymount provides academic instruction, social and emotional learning, and a community of caring peers and adults. For these reasons, the safe reopening of programs is our top priority. However, we must do it wisely.

Much thought and care have been given to determining when and how we should return students to campus. Our responsibility is to your child, family, and our valued staff to ensure a plan we feel is reasonable and that we can implement. While we are eager to be together on campus, we also need to consider our comfort level with the current community public health data, our students' significant needs, and our community's comfort level with returning.

We have developed a gradual plan that starts with on-site options for our youngest students and those who have significant challenges accessing our distance learning program with or without considerable support from their families. Phase one will begin November 9, and will include:

- On-site options for Kindergarten through grade 6 and Autism program students
- A small on-site study hall model for certain middle and secondary students
- A gradual expansion of in person optional activities and options for all students
- Continuation of Distance Learning for Middle and Secondary students

Please [click to review the Phase One Return Plan](#). This document includes important information on student and staff safety, including testing and the necessity for safety plans to participate in on-site programming.

The next determination date has been set for January 8, to determine additional on-site options starting January 25 for middle, high, and post high school students. Please see the above Phase One document for details.

Together, we will continue to define our new normal and gradually move toward being back on campus safely together.

We also encourage all families to read our Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Plan, which can be found on [the Ivymount website](#). You will receive an Operoo form to confirm you have reviewed the plan and the oath of personal responsibility. We ask that you complete this before participating in any on-site activities.

Sincerely,

Susan Holt
Executive Director