



WORKING TOGETHER WHILE APART

June 19, 2020

Dear Ivymount Families,

What an inspiration it has been to see all the year-end activities at Ivymount School over the past week. From science fairs, to field days, to Moving Up and Graduation Ceremonies, our students, your families, and our staff have come together in an untraditional but still engaging fashion.

We want to salute the hard work of our 12 graduates, some of whom have attended Ivymount since they were in elementary or middle school. No one expected they would achieve this milestone in the environment we're in, but they have demonstrated great resilience. We're so very proud of all that they have accomplished and will achieve in the future. When it is safe to do so, we will gather for an event at school to recognize them.



I also want to thank all Ivymount parents, students and staff for your dedication to making the final quarter of this school year meaningful in the face of tremendous upheaval. As Autism Program Director Kimmy Clark said in her graduation remarks, we've all changed – educating and working from home to stay safe and healthy, as well as committing to protecting and celebrating black lives and June Pride Month.

As we head into the summer, please know that the Ivymount administrative team is working on a plan for Fall that will include a range of scenarios for a gradual return to onsite instruction beginning in September. We are reviewing the [Maryland Together Recovery Plan for Education](#) while also implementing physical changes to the building and considering options for transportation and schedules, which will likely include a hybrid of onsite and remote instruction. We will be sending you a survey soon to gather your input.

Ivymount's unique student population and public health data will be the foundation for all decisions. We will work with the many Local School Systems (LSSs) who have placed your students in the Ivymount program. We also want your input and we plan to send a survey

through which you can outline your ideas and concerns.

Finally, here are some dates to remember:

- July 6 – start of the 2020-21 school year; continuation of Distance Learning and Telehealth
- July 14 – Virtual New Family Coffee/PTA Meeting

Thank you for your partnership and collaboration. We are better together. If you are not returning for next school year, please stay in touch! Please stay healthy.

Thank you for an amazing year!

Susan Holt
Executive Director