



Dear Families,

The health and safety of the Ivymount Community – students, families, staff, and partners – along with the unique needs of our students have been at the forefront of our prevention, preparedness and response planning since mid-March. Input from you and other stakeholders, state and local school systems, and public health and safety guidance will continue to inform our planning.

While we believe that in person instruction will provide the highest quality educational format for our students, we must balance that with the importance of keeping our community safe and healthy throughout these unprecedented times. As such, we have outlined an initial plan for the fall. Based on current recommendations and what we are currently able to reliably implement, we will continue remote instruction this fall. Students' return to campus will be considered at periodic benchmarks throughout the fall. We very much want to have our students back in school and will be prepared to return when health risks are reduced and there are safety recommendations we can confidently implement.

Our current goals are: 1) to provide families and staff with enough clarity to make initial plans for the fall; 2) to enable Ivymount to focus on delivering a high-quality remote educational program, while also making operational changes that will keep students and staff safe when back on campus 3) to collaborate with stakeholders to finalize a Return to Campus Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan based on professional guidance 4) to stay agile in our planning so that Ivymount can respond to new information, return students as quickly as possible, and pivot back to remote instruction if the situation demands it.

Remote Instruction Continues

After careful consideration, Ivymount will remain virtual when we return for the fall semester.

As we continue to monitor state and public school decisions and recommendations, we will continue to decide about returning to campus based on the safety and well-being of our entire Ivymount Community. We will consider state and local health and safety recommendations, guidance from our professional partners, and the support of our Board of Directors. Decisions will also be made based on how well our Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plan can mitigate the health risks of students and staff from multiple counties in MD, VA and DC. We will make decisions about a return to campus for in-person instruction at pre-determined benchmarks.

Return to Campus Consideration Dates:

- October 1 (decision communicated by September 8)
- November 2 (decision communicated by October 2)
- January 6 (decision communicated by December 7)

These decision dates allow families and staff to have clarity as to when changes may occur. We believe this more agile approach will allow us to get everyone back on campus sooner, rather than deciding for the entire semester, which could prove to be too ambitious or overly conservative. It will also provide Ivymount time to: prioritize remote instruction with additional technology, software distribution and training for staff and students; secure additional PPE and needed supplies; and modify the building.

Most importantly, a delay with periodic benchmarks for decision-making will ensure there is adequate public health data before bringing Ivymount students and staff back to campus.

Return to Campus Model

When we return to campus we will provide a hybrid model of remote and on-campus instruction. A more significant percentage of families and staff reported a preference for alternating days, with two days in a row of on-campus instruction and three days of remote instruction. This option may include alternate Wednesdays on campus for students and a one- to two-hour delayed opening for students when on campus. **We are still working on finalizing this plan.**

[Click Here to see results of the Family Reopening Survey - Instruction Model](#)

All students will have the option to remain in remote instruction for the remainder of the school year, regardless of when we return to campus. Our goal is to provide a supportive environment for families that will enable students to move between remote and on-campus instruction based on their health, personal situations and choices.

Your Input Requested

We are committed to thinking of equitable alternative options to complement your child's program while we are still remote, such as on-campus outdoor visits by classes and other on-campus or outdoor learning experiences or events. We hope to generate ideas/solutions and are open to suggestions on ways to address barriers and concerns to your student's access to instruction, services, social and community inclusion.

If you would like your child to participate in only remote instruction and do not intend to have them return to campus in person through our January 6 benchmark, please email StudentServices@ivymount.org to notify us of this decision. We are not asking families for this information formally yet. However, if you have made this decision, it will help us in our planning and ability to ensure a robust remote program for your child.

I look forward to meeting with you and your program directors to collaborate on our Return to Campus Plan. Your directors will be in touch with more details.

Sincerely,

Susan Holt
Executive Director