Questions and Answers from Parents and Guardians Week of January 25th

*What outside factors (new strain of virus that is immune to vaccine, unanticipated glitches in vaccination rate, other) might affect the plan to return, and how will they affect it?*

We are carefully monitoring information provided by epidemiologists and public health officials on a regular basis and then develop an internal plan to respond to that data/information. Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine appears to be effective against the new variants. Our plan to return is focused on our ability to implement the recommended health and safety measures necessary for reducing the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. We have the appropriate plans, staff, space, and supplies needed to carry this out. We are also confident that our health and safety system is ready to monitor for and respond to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.

*If a community member tests positive, what will the process be for all students?*

If a community member tests positive, we will have a rapid response and will appropriately identify/notify those who will need to isolate or quarantine. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis managed by our Health Coordinator. Below you’ll find our protocol for a positive case or symptomatic individual.

Our Symptomatic/Positive Case Protocol:

1. Notify the Health Coordinator
2. The sick individual will be supervised by the Health Coordinator in a designated isolation room with appropriate infection control measures implemented.
3. Designated parent/guardian will be notified to facilitate getting the individual home safely.
4. Families will be in contact with the Health Coordinator and provided appropriate resources.
5. Facilities team will properly close, clean and disinfect areas visited by the sick individual.

Health Coordinator will collect information needed to determine potential infectious period and close contacts. Health Coordinator will facilitate the return to campus following the most up to date guidance provided from local and state health departments.

6. Health Coordinator will be in contact with Public Health – Seattle & King County. Close contacts will be contacted by the county health department for additional guidance.
7. Necessary information will be communicated to the broader school community.

*When will we know a more detailed plan for our students return to campus days between now and Trimester 3?*
We will be sending detailed plans for the Upper School Days, including safety protocols and sign-up information after the In-service on Monday. Middle School information will be shared next week.

**What is the policy for kids/faculty coming to school after their parents/guardians/partners travel on long-distance, overnight, out of state or country trips for business or other?**

Our travel policy is targeted for those in our School community. It is expected that all others in the household are staying up to date with and are following local and state mandates. Current guidance recommends that people arriving in Washington from other states or countries should practice self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival. These individuals should also limit their interactions with their immediate household.

**What is the plan re: the dining program at different phases?**

The House specialty program will remain in place through Trimester 2 and until we pivot to feed students on campus. Once lunch resumes on campus, students will receive individually packed lunches. All lunches will be packed in compostable containers. Lunch will be the only permitted time in the day when students can remove their mask.

The initial Trimester 2 on-campus days will be half days and no lunch will be served. The day will run 9-11:30 am.

Students participating in Remote Learning on Campus will bring their own lunch and water bottle and will eat outside, under cover.

**What will the thresholds be re: moving to fully online learning again? If there are a couple cases that can be traced back to school, does everything shut down again for another couple weeks? If so, does the reopening happen all at once, or would it need to be phases in again?**

The metrics are meant to guide decisions and not to directly make the decision for us. The School has to weigh the risks and benefits of opening or closing. We are not prohibited from opening, or advised to shut down, based on a certain metric hitting a threshold. We are not saying we will open or close when numbers hit X, Y or Z, rather we assess COVID-19 activity in King County and within the School, and then make an informed data-driven decision based on those numbers.

**Some seniors may be hoping to participate in live Admitted Students days or make short visits to at least see (in-person) various colleges this spring, prior to the final decision deadlines. How is the school handling such trips and exposures? Are there specific guidelines for such travel? Do you anticipate that many seniors will have to quarantine post-travel, and if so, how will that impact classes and expectations?**

Those travelling out of state will be expected to notify the school and then follow our Travel Policy upon return to Washington. Those who need to quarantine post-travel will be able to
attend classes remotely. It is expected that all members stay up to date with the latest local and state mandates.

*Can you please clarify the end of Trimester 2?*

We will be holding classes on Monday and Tuesday, March 22nd and 23rd. Following Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 24th, students will be able to set up appointments with teachers, finish their responsibilities, or opt-in to a variety of educational experiences, both remote and outside. Stay tuned for more details about the Wednesday offerings. Thursday and Friday are evaluation writing days for teachers. The following week is Spring Break.

*Is the school planning to provided masks?*

We encourage students and faculty to bring their own masks they are familiar and comfortable using. The school will have masks available to those who need them.

*Is there a plan for testing?*

The School is exploring options for surveillance testing. We do have tests available for diagnostic testing should we need them.