May 28, 2020

Dear Campers,

As a rain squall moves past my window, the water running down the windows reflects the tears running down my face as I share this difficult decision: The Northwest School will not be running summer camp this year.

Faced with ongoing uncertainty about reopening restrictions, we know that there would be significant limitations on the way we could operate this summer. We know that we would not be able to offer the quality of program that we are so proud of, and that you have come to expect. It simply will not be possible for us to talk with a new international friend in the Commons, share lunch in the dining hall, or even play in the gym at midday.

It is with the safety of our campers and faculty at the forefront of our minds that we make this decision. Though we are able to carefully practice safety measures for many camp activities, such as wearing goggles when handling chemicals, learning safe knife skills in cooking, and following safety rules when operating a soldering iron, we cannot confidently mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 in the next two months. Too much is still unknown.

To that end, we will be offering full refunds of all tuition, deposits and fees paid to this point. If you would like to turn your deposit into a tax-deductible donation, please let us know by Wednesday, June 3, and we will send you a donation receipt for tax purposes. These donations will be put towards our general operating fund and will help support the school during this time. It will take us some time to process everyone’s accounts, but please contact us if you do not receive a receipt of donation or refund within two weeks.

Other camps in the area are making their own decisions, and we see the difficulty that presents for families that rely on summer camps for childcare and learning enrichment. I am currently looking into programs that are offering virtual programming, and will be happy to share a list of programs run by people and organizations that I trust that may be of interest to your family. Please look for this continuing communication in the next few weeks.

Until we can be together again, I wish you and your family continuing health and peace. I look forward to July 5, 2021, when we will hopefully be back to life in the new normal, and camp will continue!

Best,
Leilani Nussman
Summer Camp Director
Leilani.Nussman@Northwestschool.org