



June 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

As many of you probably know, the State Department of Education issued its final guidelines (which are in fact requirements) for schools to reopen yesterday. These rules govern K-12th grades and do apply to non-public schools. We are not sure yet if there will be additional rules for early childhood centers, but we will continue to monitor those as they are promulgated.

Based on what was issued yesterday, St. Mark's will move forward with plans to begin school August 12, with all students attending five days per week. We will have in place COVID-modified procedures to address state requirements and best practices. As long as we are in Phase 2 or Phase 3, there is nothing that would prevent us from holding daily classes. If we were to move back into Phase 1, there are many more challenges and much more significant modifications because static group size is limited to 10, including adults. In Phase 1, we might well have to consider alternating days or limited attendance, but it would not be automatic.

We are continuing to review the regulations as well as best practice recommendations that are being offered by national educational and public health bodies. Our efforts at St. Mark's will be to protect the health of our teachers, staff, children, extended families, and wider community. As policies and protocols are finalized, we will of course keep you informed.

The school offices will be open next Monday and Tuesday but closed for the Independence Day Holiday July 1-7. I myself am taking some vacation next week and will be out of the office all week. Please contact the division heads if you need something that can't await my return.

Wishing you a happy 4th of July!

Chris Carter, D.Min.
Head of School