

July 22, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have been able to find some silver linings this summer. Without a doubt, 2020 has been a challenging year. As states across the country continue to see increases in their number of confirmed Covid-19 cases, we are thankful that Connecticut continues to show a daily decrease. Amidst the national debate over reopening schools, we appreciate the extensive roadmap presented by our state, and The Pinnacle School's administrators and staff have been singularly focused on creating a safe and welcoming environment for our students' return this fall. In addition, our team has also been working closely with Evan Wyner, our health consultant from Colliers International, a leading commercial real estate company, and their Commissioning and Energy Services team to achieve this goal.

We are in the process of finalizing our plan which needs to be submitted to the State of Connecticut this Friday, July 24. This plan follows Governor Lamont and the State Department of Education's School Reopening Guidelines, ["Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together"](#). The stated priority of the plan is *"...to have all students, in all districts, return to schoolhouses for full-time instruction at the beginning of 2020-2021, so long as public health data continues to support this model... In addition to full-time instruction, (schools) must be prepared to modify their plans to support a partial reopening or to allow for scaling back at a future date if the public health data changes."*

Planning for The Pinnacle School's reopening began well before these guidelines were published and our Reopening Task Force has been working diligently to anticipate the challenges and opportunities and to identify solutions. Compounding this work has been our move to the new campus at 201 High Ridge Road. The newly renovated building, with COVID measures being implemented from the ground up, will offer us more space as we focus on socially distancing students and staff, and will also provide us with much-needed outdoor space in a bucolic setting. Our reopening plans include opportunities to familiarize students with the new space before they set foot in the building, as we believe that will be an important component of our success. You will be receiving more information about this in the coming weeks.

We are developing plans for a myriad of scenarios (full-time in school, full-time remote learning, or a hybrid/blended learning model of in-school and remote, all dictated by local public health and safety concerns) and at every touchpoint of our students'

experience. We have included a graphic from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's recent report, brought to our attention by our health consultants. We believe it is a great reflection of the areas we are focusing on in our planning for a partial, hybrid or full return to school. Please find it here (page 7, <https://schools.forhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/06/Harvard-Healthy-Buildings-Program-Schools-For-Health-Reopening-Covid19-June2020.pdf>).

We will be postponing the first day of school for students until Thursday, September 3 in order for our administrators, teachers and clinical staff to have additional training on our safety procedures and to make their classrooms and common areas ready for the new protocols that have been put into place.

In order to help us with our final planning, please complete the [The Pinnacle School Reopening Survey](#) by the end of day on Wednesday, July 29. We appreciate your feedback and will use this information to help shape our plan.

For the health and safety of our school community, it is vital that you plan any out-of-state travel to correspond with Connecticut's mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement, or may show proof of a negative Coronavirus test 72 hours prior to travel, for travelers returning from the ever-increasing number of states of concern. A list of Travel Advisory States can be found on the state website at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>. As the list of affected states changes as public health conditions dictate, we suggest that you check it frequently if you're planning out-of-state travel in the coming weeks and months. Our staff will be adhering to these protocols as well based on their earlier return to school dates.

Should you have any questions about your child's health, symptoms or vulnerable underlying conditions, we encourage you to first contact your pediatrician. Our school nurse, JoAnn Novak, is also available should you or your pediatrician wish to consult her and can be reached at jnovak@greenwichgroup.com.

As mentioned above, we are submitting our plan to the state this Friday, July 24. After submission, we anticipate the following timeline:

July 22 Administration of a survey to families to identify plans for fall

Aug 6 10:30am Town Hall meeting with Greenwich Education Group's Health

Consultant (Colliers International) to share report findings and resulting actions with families

- Aug 7** School reopening plan shared parents and staff
- Aug. 10-14** Pinnacle Parent Q&A virtual meetings offered for families by division (Lower/Middle/Upper)
- Aug. 17** Communication of final Return-to-School Plan based on State and CDC Guidance and current public health conditions
- Aug. 19** Start of State-required 14-day quarantine for returning students that have traveled to an Affected State
- Aug. 24-28** Remote Orientation for Students will be scheduled for approximately one hour at some point during this week. More information coming soon.
- Aug. 24-Sept. 2** Staff Professional Development
- Sept. 3** First Day of School for Students

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic and ever-changing local public health conditions, we all might have more questions than answers at times. We appreciate your continued flexibility as we all continue to navigate this “new normal.” The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and families continues to remain our highest priority.

As lifelong educators, we have missed the hustle and bustle of students in the building, and can't wait to have their laughter echo through the halls and classrooms of our new school campus! And, regardless of whether we have a full in-person, remote or hybrid reopening, we will be ready to provide an outstanding educational experience when school resumes on September 3rd.