

June 11, 2020

Dear Springdale Families,

We are approaching the conclusion of the current academic year and plans are already in place for the new school year that awaits us. We are all very proud of our students and teachers! Each has persevered through the process of learning and teaching within an unexpected and very different instructional environment. Your support as parents has contributed hugely to the success of our students' virtual learning experience.

Now is the time to celebrate the success and growth each of our students has achieved. Awards, advancement to new grade levels, and graduation celebrations will all bring great joy to everyone. We have ended the school year strong, even in such uncertain times. Like so many others, our Springdale family has endured hardships, losses, and intense challenges over the past several months, but together we now have the capacity to create a bright start for the new school year.

Our school has embraced the challenges that have come with COVID 19. We are strengthened in our resolve to provide each of our students with a learning environment where they will develop academic excellence, critical thinking, integrity, and respect. This, in fact, is the profile of our 2020 graduates.

Planning is well underway for the coming school year. I would like to share with you the direction we are taking to provide the best educational practice for our students while maintaining fidelity to the health and safety requirements in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. We are following the recommendations from the Maryland State Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Carroll County Health Department.

We understand the value of in-person instruction and are planning to open our campus on September 1, 2020. Springdale Prep is very fortunate to have a large facility that will accommodate all of our students in a flexible pattern of social distancing.

The plan for the next school year integrates remote learning with a full schedule of teacher-directed in-classroom instruction. This unique hybrid approach will allow students who must continue their learning through on-line services to participate fully in the classroom learning environment. Each classroom will be equipped with virtual learning devices, and our teachers will receive further training this summer to provide a seamless educational experience for the students.

Our school day will be modified to reflect the adjustments necessary to meet the standards outlined in our enhanced Health and Safety policies. For example, upon student arrival at 8:15 a.m. temperatures will be checked before reporting to a specific room for Advisory class. Throughout the day, students will maintain social distancing and be required to wear their own masks. Individual arrangements may be made for early drop-off if needed. Throughout the school day, sixth through tenth-grade teachers will rotate among their assigned teaching periods, while students will remain in their classrooms. In the eleventh and twelfth grade, the students will rotate to their individual teachers' classrooms.

We have contracted with a professional cleaning firm that will enhance our daily attention to cleanliness and sanitation in order to mitigate any communicable disease throughout the school.

Athletics and student activities are important elements of a Springdale experience. We have modified our practice protocols, game procedures, and wellness standards to align with the National Federation High School Association. The following will highlight some of these program changes:

- Social distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced during pre and post-practice. While lockers will not be in use, each student will be assigned a specific area of the locker room to dress and store their athletic equipment. A pre-workout screening will take place to check for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to any workout. This will include a temperature check. Any person with positive symptoms will contact his or her primary health-care professional.
- Limitations will be placed on gatherings with no more than 10 people at a time (inside or outside). Students will report to workouts in proper gear and immediately return home to shower at the end of the workout. Further details relative to our return to athletic participation can be found in the 2020-2021 Springdale COVID 19 Athletic Plan.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the on-going support and guidance we have received from all of our parents this school year. Because of this open communication, we have been able to provide your children with not only highly skilled teachers but also a curricular and athletic program that meets the highest standards. Listening and respect are valued attributes here at Springdale Prep. Our administration, faculty, and staff try to model these important lessons every day in all we do.

Today's communication is the first in a planned series that will keep you informed through the summer months as we prepare for the next school year. This letter has focused on the protocols necessary for the return of our students to a safe learning environment in the fall. Future letters will update you on such topics as our new faculty hires and course offerings, new athletic programs and policy enhancements, college guidance, accreditation, residential life, and potential school transportation. There is so much to be excited about in the 2020-2021 school year.

Please take care and know that both Dr. Fulton and I maintain an open-door policy. We welcome your comments and suggestions for continued growth on behalf of our wonderful Springdale students.

Sincerely,

Ashley Yuan

President

Springdale Preparatory School