



# SAINT ANN'S SCHOOL

Vincent Tompkins  
Head of School

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Dear Saint Ann's Community,

Most of my note this afternoon addresses our ongoing efforts to keep our school community healthy and safe, but I want to begin by acknowledging that the coming week will create strains and stresses of a different kind. In the midst of a worsening global pandemic, we are on the precipice of a presidential election at a moment of deep division and distrust in our country. Regardless of what happens next week, our students will come into our classrooms and Zoom rooms with a mix of emotions, questions, concerns and reactions. They will want to talk about how the election—and everything surrounding it—affects them, their family and their community. Our role as educators will be to bring a profound sense of shared humanity to our interactions with our students. We will listen to them, be honest with them, answer their questions, and continue the ongoing work of teaching them, at every age, how to listen to and care for one another.

Today, fourth through twelfth grade students participated in “Electionpalooza,” a series of faculty-led workshops centered around themes of elections, democracy, free expression, and the power of art to help us navigate times of uncertainty. Our speaker at high school Friday Meeting, Dr. Leila Brammer, emphasized the value of open discourse and free expression both in our own pluralistic community and in a democratic society. We will carry into next week her exhortation to enter into discourse in a spirit of curiosity, mutual respect, bravery, and generosity of spirit.

## Health and Safety

### Flu Shots

We strongly recommend getting a flu shot if you have not already done so. Employees can see the nurses in either the Bosworth or Farber Buildings to get a flu shot.

### Surveillance Testing Consent Form

The consent form for our surveillance testing program is now [up on the Parent Portal](#) [you can also find it as a blue box in the right hand column toward the bottom, under the “Covid Resources” heading]. Parents, please fill out the form at your earliest convenience if your child is attending school in person. Only one custodial parent needs to fill it out and it will cover all Saint Ann's students in your family. We have made the form available whether your child is currently remote or in-person since these designations are shifting regularly. Distribution of testing kits began today in the high school and will begin in all other divisions next week.

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that our new testing plan adds an additional layer of protection for our community but does not replace masking, distancing, hand hygiene and all of the other health and safety protocols we have in place this year. Those remain as important as ever; they are our first line of defense in preventing virus transmission at school.



### **Thanksgiving Travel**

Our goal is to keep school open for in-person learning for as long as public health metrics within Saint Ann's and the greater New York City area permit. If your Thanksgiving plans include travel to states or countries on the [New York State travel advisory list](#), which is regularly updated and currently includes 45 states, you must complete the state-mandated 2-week quarantine period before returning to campus in person. In addition, just this week Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that non-essential travel to neighboring states that technically meet the travel advisory criteria such as Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania is strongly discouraged, and [Mayor DeBlasio encouraged NYC residents](#) to stay home for the holidays.

We urge families who plan to send your children to school in person following the Thanksgiving break to refrain from non-essential travel. The recent surge in Covid-19 cases throughout the country reminds us that continued vigilance in following health and safety protocols is essential to keeping our entire community healthy and to keeping Saint Ann's open for in-person instruction.

### **COVID Alert NY Contact Tracing App**

New York State has released a contact tracing mobile phone app. We encourage you to download the app as one more layer of protection in keeping our community—and all of the communities of which we are all a part—safe. To learn more and download the app [click here](#).

### **This Week's Numbers**

We have no confirmed cases of Covid-19 among students or employees to report to you this week. We have updated the [dashboard](#).

### **Food Services**

The lunch menu for the lower, middle and high schools will once again be posted on our public website [here](#). We will update the menu each Friday for the following week. You can add funds to your Revtrak account [here](#) and place lunch orders [here](#).

Wishing you a safe and happy Halloween weekend.

Yours,