



SAINT ANN'S SCHOOL

Vincent Tompkins
Head of School

October 9, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff and Families,

In classrooms and on rooftops, on laptops and in the park, on Love Lane and through the ether we learned and taught this week, studying empires and conquest, algebra and alphabets, African dance and recorder. Each week is a week of invention and reinvention, problem-solving and dreaming, doing all we can to sustain connection and the capacity for dreaming.

Middle and High School Update

Building on the success we have had thus far safely reopening for in-person learning, we are planning to increase the number of in-person days for students in grades 5-12 beginning the week of October 19th. Each student in grades 4-12 will have the opportunity to come to school in person two days each week on the following schedule:

Mondays: Grades 4, 5 and 7

Tuesdays: Grades 4, 5, 6 and 8

Wednesdays: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

Thursdays: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Fridays: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

We will expand our use of nearby auxiliary spaces in order to increase the number of large teaching spaces available. These will help to ensure that social distancing and the other health and safety protocols that we have established can all be maintained. Students who have been participating remotely can continue to do so.

I wanted to share this information as soon as we had a plan in place. However, this is not a decision I take lightly. As always, implementing it will depend on the continued stability of health metrics both at Saint Ann's and within our city as a whole. The external metric that we continue to monitor most closely is the rolling seven-day average test positivity rate in New York City. As of October 8, that rate was 1%. As I wrote to you last week, any rising test positivity rate, like that we are seeing this week in the "clusters" in Brooklyn and Queens, is always a cause for serious attention. We will continue to evaluate next week whether anything in the available data suggests that we must pause on proceeding with our plan to offer additional in-person learning for middle and high school students.

Health and Safety

Reminders

The news of rising rates in some areas of the city this week is a reminder for all of us about how critical our ongoing practices are to keeping our school community healthy. Even as we have been fortunate enough to stay open for five weeks now without any confirmed cases among faculty, staff or students, we must take care to avoid "pandemic fatigue." It is more important now than ever to keep wearing our masks, distancing from one another,



washing our hands, staying home if we're sick and being in touch with school nurses (nurses@saintannsny.org) about any symptoms.

Please continue to fill out the daily Ruvna self-screening regardless of whether you (or your child) are coming to school in person or not, including on days when your child is home sick.

This Week's Numbers

Last week, I wrote to you about a student who had three negative and one positive Covid-19 test result. The Department of Health has since confirmed that the latter was a false positive. Both their data and ours have been updated to reflect that this was not in fact a positive case of Covid-19 among our student body.

Our continued community efforts have resulted in another week in which we have no confirmed cases of Covid-19 among students or employees to report to you. We have updated the [dashboard](#) on the Parent Portal.

COVID Alert NY Contact Tracing App

New York State has released a contact tracing mobile phone app that will alert users if they were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, allowing them to self-quarantine immediately, get tested and reduce the potential exposure risk. We would encourage you to download the app as one more layer of protection in keeping our community safe and doing our part for all of the communities of which we are a part. To learn more and download the app visit: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny/>.

Travel Policies and Holiday Planning

As a reminder, there is no school this coming Monday, October 12. As you plan travel for this weekend or for longer stretches in the coming months, please bear in mind the 14-day quarantine required of anyone returning to New York from states or countries on the [New York State travel advisory list](#). Saint Ann's students and employees are expected to complete any state-mandated quarantine periods before returning to any school building.

I am deeply grateful to everyone for their continued patience, flexibility and care for one another as we navigate this most unusual back-to-school season together as a community. I wish you all a safe and healthy long weekend.

Love,