

COVID-19 Planning for the 2020-2021 Year

Update #7 -- May 9, 2020

Dear parents,

As we near the end of the school year, I believe that I know what's on many of your minds: what will summer be like this year? And what will the upcoming school year look for our Eagles?

I know these questions are on your minds because they are on my mind, too. It seems my kids are asking nearly every day. And many of you have begun to reach out individually for an update. So in this email, I'll share what we're doing to prepare for a safe return to our campus in the fall.

But first, I'd like to note that this is the seventh COVID-19 communication we have sent to you. Before we look ahead, here is a quick review of our communications to-date. *Just seeing this timeline reminds me of what a whirlwind March 2020 was for all of us!*

1. In our first official update on March 2, we discussed [Coronavirus prevention](#)
2. In the second update on March 13, we discussed [post-spring break precautions](#)
3. On March 14, we announced [Distance Learning](#) would begin on March 20
4. On March 16, we shared [information on how to prepare](#) for Distance Learning
5. On March 18, we outlined [the process for supply pick-up](#)
6. On March 21, we shared [resources and tips for well-being](#)

By late March, Distance Learning was well underway. Our focus shifted from emergency communications to optimizing the Distance Learning process through parent surveys, faculty meetings, and parent forums. It's

been quite the ride, and I continue to be so proud of how we all came together to make this work for each and every student.

Behind the scenes, we've also continued to assess the risk level and options for our school. I meet weekly with Shawnee County Emergency Management, along with area schools, to ask questions and review the most up-to-date information. My weekly meetings with leaders of nearby independent schools have also proven to be extremely informative. Additionally, the national network of independent schools has been outstanding, as we share models, strategies and solutions.

To synthesize and evaluate these strategies, we've launched the Eagles 360 Taskforce. This group, comprised of both teachers and school leadership, will examine the scenarios and possibilities for resuming learning on our campus. While we will continue to follow the guidance of local government, we will also be proactive in creating schedules and plans that are both practical and safe.

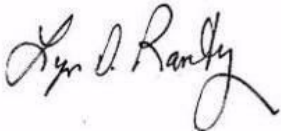
Unfortunately, these plans do not apply to our Summer Adventures program. As you likely saw in the Collegiate Connection, we are in the process of moving these classes online. I recognize that this is a stressful time, as you consider how you will manage the summer schedule and provide your child with meaningful experiences. We will share more information about our online Summer Adventures as soon as it is available.

Looking at the big picture, I believe that today, more than ever, the value of our school is clear. Our agility and ability to be innovative means we can design an educational experience that fits today's world. As we always say, *we may not know what the future will bring, but we can equip our children with the skills they will need to succeed*. That motto rings true right now, in this moment, as we continue to adapt and adjust - making sure that our students get the best education possible.

There's one more motto that's been on my mind lately. It's *freedom with responsibility*. This statement by former Head of School, Mac Rives, is engraved on a plaque by the front door of our school. I plan to share it at the first Eagles 360 Taskforce meeting on Monday. In just three words, it gives us a clear direction to point our efforts. We have a responsibility to one another. You have my word that I will do everything I can to make informed, thoughtful decisions in the months ahead.

Our school continues to grow, even in these times, thanks to the strength of our school community. Thank you for being a part of it. If you have any questions, please reach out to me. My virtual "door" is always open and my phone is always on.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lyn D. Rantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lyn" and last name "Rantz" clearly legible.

Dr. Lyn D. Rantz, Head of School