

Reopening School for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Dear PCS community,

I hope your summer is off to a great start! We were grateful as a school to be able to celebrate both the 12th grade commencement and the 5th grade graduation service as outdoor live and in-person events with the necessary social distancing in place. The events were beautiful, and we wish that we could have done something similar for every student at every grade level. We miss the togetherness, and I am sure that all of you do as well. We look forward to a day when the same togetherness that we have enjoyed in the past can be realized once again.

As communicated earlier, our administrative team has been planning for various scenarios for the reopening of school in the fall. We are now seeing a clearer path toward starting live school beginning Tuesday, September 1, 2020 with as much normalcy as possible. This is our clear intent barring any potential mandates to the contrary from the state government.

This week David C. Damsker, Director of the Bucks County Health Department, issued [guidance for the reopening of schools in our county](#). The recommendations developed by his team are mostly in line with the plans we have been formulating, and this guidance does a great job of creating a picture of the changes that will need to be made for us to begin live school in September. We will be taking their recommendations into account, and we anticipate adopting most of these recommendations. We will be making our complete plan available in the next few weeks, and if our specific plan differs from those within the BCHD guidelines, it will only be to provide additional protection where possible. Being a small school affords us the opportunity to be even more flexible or creative with certain practices to achieve additional protection. As an example, our aim with bus transportation will be to limit seating to one child per seat where possible even though the BCHD guidelines allow for two children per seat. Also, while they are recommending in-class social distancing of three feet between children, our goal will be to extend this distance when and where possible to achieve an even greater degree of protection.

Rest assured, our primary concern is for the safety of our students and staff. As each new week brings additional clarity we will be responsive and adaptable in order to create a learning environment that is as safe as possible for all members of our community. Please know that we will continue to seek the wise counsel of the Bucks County Health Department and other educational and health professionals as we continue to develop the specifics of our plan.

Blessings,

Patrick Fitzpatrick, Headmaster