

JULY 22 REOPENING UPDATE: LOGISTICS

Virginia is currently in Forward Virginia Phase 3. As we previously shared with our families, if Virginia remains in Phase 3 at the start of the school year on August 31, we will offer families the choice between on-campus learning and distance learning.

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ON-CAMPUS LEARNING OPTION

- Students will learn at school five days a week
- We are able to offer five days a week on campus in physically-distanced classrooms due to the relocation of grades 7 and 8 to the new Peterson Middle School, number of Lower School classrooms, size of the learning spaces, and class sizes in each grade.

UPPER SCHOOL ON-CAMPUS LEARNING OPTION

- Students will learn at school two days a week and at home three days a week
- Grades 9 and 10 will learn on campus Thursday and Friday and grades 11 and 12 will learn on campus Monday and Tuesday.
- We are able to offer two days a week on campus in the Upper School due to the number of classrooms and size of the learning spaces while maintaining class sizes that allow for appropriate physical distance.

JK-12 DISTANCE LEARNING OPTION

- Students will learn at home five days a week

If Governor Northam reverts to Phase 2 or Phase 1 due to health conditions when classes are scheduled to resume, we will adjust our reopening plans accordingly.

Families will be given the opportunity to select the learning model that will best serve their families in August.

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Flint Hill is a member of two athletic leagues: the Independent School League (ISL) and Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC). On July 22, they released statements announcing their decision to postpone fall athletic contests. They are working toward an approach where fall, winter and spring athletes will have an opportunity to play in condensed seasons starting in January. Flint Hill is actively participating in those discussions and will keep families updated as plans evolve. At this time, there will also be no athletic competitions or in-person practices for Middle or Upper School students in the fall.

LOWER SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We understand the important role that physical education plays in the lives of students in this age group and are currently developing a plan for the coming year.

END OF DAY PROTOCOLS – CAMPUS BUILDINGS CLOSE WHEN CLASSES END

Campus buildings will close when classes have concluded for the day. All students will need to leave campus immediately after classes end. This will help minimize cross-cohort contact – a key risk mitigation strategy. Upper School students will not be allowed to remain on campus between the end of classes and 6 p.m. Families will need to plan accordingly for this change. The start and end time for the school day will be provided in the upcoming academic update.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Federal and state guidelines have provided direction regarding seating arrangements, opening windows to promote air circulation and cleaning enhancements. Still, this remains a potentially high-risk area due to the prolonged exposure among groups of mixed grade students with limited air circulation. Current families who previously signed up for bus service will receive a brief survey within the next week which will inform our planning, and another update will be shared when a decision has been reached regarding bus service.

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTERCARE

As we evaluated the times in the school day when students closely interacted with one another outside of their homeroom or grade, AfterCare was identified as a potential high risk for exposure. Therefore, we've made the difficult decision to cancel the AfterCare program for 2020–21.

LOWER SCHOOL AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AND DANCE ACADEMY

The After-School Club program typically provides optional, fun, short educational experiences for Lower School students after the school day ends. These activities often involve students in multiple grades and multiple homerooms. Because we are working to keep students in the same cohorts as much as possible to mitigate health risks this year, After-School Clubs will not be offered in 2020–21. We will not be offering our Dance Academy program in 2020–21 for the same reasons.