



Hello Laurel School Community!

Welcome to the 2021 – 22 school year! We hope that you all have had a wonderful and joyful summer creating memories with your families! We would like to welcome back all of our returning families; we are so excited to see you! We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families that will be joining us this year!

We would like to share our initial thoughts for the new school year with all of you. We've gained a lot of knowledge after closing in March of 2020, and reopening school last September. We reimagined our programming continuing our foundations to foster a love of learning for students and faculty in the safest way possible. We opened our school for a full five days in person just after Labor Day and made it through the year with only one school quarantine and a few other classrooms being quarantined throughout the year. We ended the year with a beautiful outdoor graduation of our Fifth graders and celebrated through the challenges of the past year.

Throughout the last school year, we implemented many mitigation strategies, some of which will continue through the upcoming school year and others that we will adjust to fit our current climate.

We will continue to remain vigilant and adjust our thinking as necessary as new information is released regarding vaccinations, boosters, and the potential effects of the delta variant in our community. We want to share our initial thoughts regarding mitigation strategies that will be in place this coming school year but we will stress that the effects of COVID-19 continue to be a fluid situation.

Our goal this upcoming school year is to continue to be open for five full days with some strategies in place but giving both students and families a bit more flexibility. Our priority is to keep students safe and also be mindful of the student's social and emotional well-being.

Our mitigation strategies will continue as follows:

Masks

- Students in Preschool – Grade 5 mandatory mask requirements when:
- Entering and exiting the building
- Indoors and cannot be socially distanced
- Masks for all students will NOT be required during outside play or for outdoor classes
- Families that would like their students to wear masks at any other time will be supported

Minimized Contact Strategies

- Elementary & Toddler – Pre-Kindergarten programs will not commingle with each other during the school day while inside or outside the building
- To minimize traffic and contact within the school, only faculty and students will be allowed in the building
- Outdoor classrooms will be utilized for a majority of the day as situations and weather permitting and for as long as possible into the school year.
- Toddler – Pre-Kindergarten students will still have separate play spaces outdoors and stay within their classroom groups during the day



- Elementary Students K-5 will utilize all of their outside spaces for play.
- Lunch and Recesses for Students K-5 will go back to K-2 in one group and 3-5 in the second group; Commingling outside within those groups

Cleaning, Health & Hygiene

- Continued hand-washing protocols for all students and faculty
- All cleaning protocols and personal hygiene protocols will remain in place - We will continue the use of our plant-based cleaner Bioesque to disinfect and clean throughout the day
- Electrostatic sprayers will be used to disinfect the school at the end of each day
- Our cleaning company, Purifyly will continue with scheduled cleanings
- Air purifiers will continue to be utilized in both wings and Elementary classrooms with open windows to promote proper airflow and ventilation

Drop Off & Pick Up – Elementary Students

Elementary drop off will be between 8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Elementary pick up will be between 2:50 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Drop Off & Pick Up – Toddler – Pre-K Students

Toddlers – 8:30 a.m. drop off - 2:45 p.m. pick up

Preschool – 8:45 a.m. drop off - 3:00 p.m. pick up

Pre-Kindergarten – 9 a.m. drop off - 3:15 p.m. pick up

Initial Changes in our Mitigation Strategies

We will no longer require daily attestation forms or temperature checks at the door

Before & Afterschool Programming

We will limit the numbers of students participating in these programs to minimize the amount of commingling:

Morning Care Toddler – Pre-K – 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Afterschool Toddler - Pre-K and Elementary Clubs - 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If the students are outside during this time they are not required to wear masks. If they do move inside then they will wear masks. Families that have already signed up for Before or Afterschool Programming will be accommodated. If you have not already signed up or spoken to either myself or Courtney Mills, Director of Operations & Admissions then at this time we are going to hold off on adding more students.

Again, these are our initial thoughts in regards to our upcoming 2021-22 school year. Some of our mitigation strategies have changed and some are reflecting regulations set forth by the Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Public Health.

We are looking forward to a safe, healthy, and fun school year! If there are any questions in regards to this information, please do not hesitate to reach out!

All the Best,
Amy E. Carroll
Head of School, The Laurel School