

May 28, 2020

Dear Providence Families,

I hope you and your family are doing well and enjoying the summer, even if it's an unusual one. As we look ahead to the fall semester, I'm sure you're craving a return to normalcy, just as I am, and you probably have questions about what the school year will be like.

At this time, we plan to return to our regular schedule of classroom instruction as usual in mid-August, and we will be drafting plans to safely return to the school buildings. Please know that your child's wellbeing is our top priority. I am assembling a task force that includes health care professionals from our Providence community to advise administration in these efforts and to review public health guidance from the CDC and Arkansas Department of Health. Already, some high school sports are starting back up under the strict controls recommended by our state.

Since none of us knows exactly what the public health landscape will look like this fall and winter, we are also making plans for remote learning if that becomes necessary. We're grateful for the flexibility we already have in our university-model schedule as well as the experience we gained with remote learning this spring. We are confident that if needed, we can build on these strengths to provide an excellent remote learning experience.

We understand that there's a lot of uncertainty right now. However, your tuition payment is critical to our school's ability to extend contracts to teachers, coaches, and staff with confidence for the upcoming school year. To guide your students through the 2020-21 year with excellent instruction, it's important for us to provide job security for our faculty even if we need to pivot to remote learning for part of the school year.

Our goal is to be in the classroom all year, and we pray that will be possible. But regardless of whether we're in the classroom or remote, we are committed to providing the high-quality learning experience you expect as you invest your time and money in a Providence education for your child.

If your family is facing extenuating financial circumstances, please reach out to the business office (businessoffice@providence-academy.com), and let's have a conversation about how we can help.

Thank you for your patience as we assemble the task force to draw up and help implement specific plans. As the working group makes specific recommendations, we will be in touch with more detailed information and opportunities for you to voice concerns and ask questions.

If you have a background in pediatrics or public health and would like to be part of the group forming, please let me know!

In the meantime, please reach out anytime if there's anything I can do to help your family during this time.

In Christ,

David Smith
President