



July 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Since May 2020, much effort and expertise contributed to the many aspects associated with reopening our School for the 2020-2021 school year. I am indebted to our Reopening Team comprised of dedicated members of the School's Safety Committee and the 7 Reopening Work Groups members. Plans for the 2020-21 school year are summarized below.

#### Health and Safety Plan

We are pleased to announce that the HGMICS Reopening Health and Safety Plan required by the PA Department of Education (PDE) has been completed and approved by the Board of Trustees this week. Our Plan follows all directives from Governor Wolf, PA Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the PA Department of Education (PDE). The Plan will be submitted to PDE and posted on their website as well as the School's website. The Health and Safety Plan includes summaries addressing four areas with detailed action steps for each area: a) Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation; b) Social Distancing and other Safety Protocols; c) Monitoring Student and Staff Health; d) Other Considerations for Students and Staff. Additionally, Professional Development and Communication Plans are summarized.

This Plan is a thorough and comprehensive depiction of the health and safety measures the School will have in place to welcome back students on August 31, 2020; please carefully read the Plan in its entirety. TreeAnne and I will conduct follow-up Q&A sessions for families that will be announced in a separate message. Additionally, Joe Ross, Director of Facilities and Security and Amy Ryan, School Nurse will be providing updates and information to our families throughout the school year.

#### Two-week Hybrid (A/B) Schedule

As indicated in the Plan, the School will reopen the 2020-2021 school year with a hybrid A/B two-week schedule with 6ft physical distancing requirements that allows half of our student population to return to campus on any one day, following a rotating two-week schedule. For

example, Group A students will be on campus Monday, Wednesday, Friday for week one and for week two, they'll be at school Tuesday, Thursday for a total of five days in-person instruction over a two-week period. With half the student population in the school on any one day, classrooms will have a maximum of 12 students with enough distance that masks are not needed during instruction, unless requested by parents/guardians (see school-wide mask requirements detailed in the Health and Safety Plan). When students are not on campus, they will access curriculum materials through the recently purchased learning management system, Schoology. Benefitting from in-person instruction and guidance while at school, remote days will require students to complete independent assignments as a continuation of their lesson objectives.

The School will follow this educational format while our region or local community is designated as a yellow or green zone. Should there be a state directive for another mandated school closure, we are prepared to offer an all-remote, synchronous educational program, using the Schoology learning management system and closely following the A/B model, albeit all remotely.

When offering this hybrid, A/B schedule, siblings will be assigned to the same A or B schedule. Students with Individual Education or Section 504 Plans will be invited to be at the school for five days and outreach to those parents/guardians will commence next week. The School is finalizing class lists and student schedules will be distributed August 3rd so you can plan accordingly.

#### Continuity of Education Plan

An updated Continuity of Education Plan containing information described in this letter will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees in August and distributed thereafter. The updated Continuity of Education Plan, also required by PDE, details the educational program(s) our school will offer in a red, yellow or green zone and is distinct from the Health and Safety Plan referenced above. TreeAnne is working closely with the faculty and Academic Committee of the Board to update our Continuity of Education plan for the 2020-21 school year.

#### Transportation

We are still awaiting transportation details from each of the school districts where our students reside. If possible, PDE is encouraging families to transport your child(ren) to and from school instead of using the bus transportation. Patty Biko will follow up with all families to confirm the preferred way of transporting your child(ren) and communicate finalized transportation information.

I hope that all HGMICS families are safe and healthy and look forward to welcoming everyone back at the end of August.

All the best,  
Marie George  
Chief Executive Officer