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Dear Parents,

As we get closer to September our plans are becoming more defined for the start of school, even though there continues to be moving pieces affecting planning. As I've said before, the health and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority and remains at the forefront of our decision making process. Below is our current plan as of today.

### **Class Configuration, Cohort Groups, and Weekly Schedules**

Minimizing interactions at school is one important risk mitigation strategy for COVID-19. To that end, we plan to keep students within a classroom cohort group which remains separate from all other groups, as well as greatly reduces the number of adults who interact with each group.

#### **Preschool, PreKindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten**

We are planning five cohort groups for our early childhood children. The cohort groups will be multi-grade (either Preschool/PreK or PreK/TK) with a maximum of 11 children in each group. These classes will be in the building daily.

#### **Kindergarten**

We are planning for two cohort groups of Kindergarten students with a maximum of 11 children in each group. They will be in the building daily.

#### **Grades 1-4**

We are planning for three cohort groups in each of our teams in grades 1-4.

- Grade 1/2 will have one cohort of first graders and one cohort of second graders of up to 11 children, each taught by one teacher. There will also be one multi-grade 1/2 classroom of up to 16 children taught by 2 teachers. These classes will be in the building daily.
- Grade 3/4 will have one cohort of third graders and one cohort of fourth graders of up to 11 children, each taught by one teacher. There will also be one multi-grade 3/4 classroom of up to 16 children taught by 2 teachers. These classes will be in the building on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and distance learning on Thursday and Friday.

## Grades 5-8

We are planning to have middle school students grouped by grade level.

- Grade 5 will be in two cohorts of up to 9 students each and will be in the building on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and distance learning on Thursday and Friday.
- Grade 6 will be in two cohorts of up to 13 students each and will be distance learning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and in the building on Thursday and Friday.
- Grade 7 will be in one cohort of up to 15 students and will be distance learning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and in the building on Thursday and Friday.
- Grade 8 will be in one cohort of up to 16 students and will have distance learning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and in the building on Thursday and Friday.

## Clubhouse

Providing our normal, in-person Clubhouse is not possible for all grade levels.

- **Preschool, PreKindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten:** For parents who indicated on the July survey or to Tricia as they have enrolled in the school this summer that they need Clubhouse (3:15-5:30pm), we will provide in-person Clubhouse. Two of our early childhood cohort groups are "populated" to allow those children to stay with their school-day group into the late afternoon.
- **Kindergarten through Grade 8:** We will provide remote Clubhouse activities for which you may sign up beginning Monday, August 17. We will not be able to provide in-person Clubhouse (3:15-5:30pm) options for elementary and middle school students.

## Early Morning Drop-off

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer Early Morning Drop-off for the foreseeable future.

## Masks

Now is a good time to find the most comfortable style mask for your child. We also request that all students begin wearing a mask for an increasingly longer time period (one hour a day for 3-4 days; two hours a day for 3-4 days; three hours a day for 3-4 days, etc.). It will be helpful in September if your child begins now to build up "mask wearing" time.

## Auxiliary Tablets

The school has Chromebooks available for students, if needed, in grades 1-8. Parents have asked about suggestions for auxiliary tablets to use for live video (e.g. Zoom, Google Hangouts), as the Chromebooks capability to handle video streaming is variable and connection can be poor. However, Chromebooks continue to be an excellent "work tool" for students to complete assignments on.

Suggestions for optional tablets:

[Fire HD 10](#), [iPad](#), [Fire Tablet 7](#), [Dragon Touch](#)

### Travel Information

As of August 1, Governor Baker instituted [travel information](#) for anyone who returns to Massachusetts after traveling outside of Massachusetts. Please review this information thoroughly if you are traveling within two weeks prior to the start of school. The new travel information requires a 14 day quarantine period or a negative COVID-19 test.

We are continuing preparations to welcome our students back to school in September. If Coronavirus numbers dictate that we cannot be in school in September or any time throughout the school year, we are prepared to pivot to full distance learning. Keep an eye out over the next few weeks as more information will come your way.

Warmly,  
Deanne

Lesley Ellis School, 34 Winter Street, Arlington, MA 02474

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