



May 22, 2020

Dear Stanley Families,

I am sure you are all looking forward to end of year celebrations and a shift in routines that might include new and different experiences with your family as we enjoy this beautiful Colorado sunshine. We are excited to wish you all a happy summer at our Stanley End-of-Year Car Parade on May 30, and I know many would like more information about what a return to school might look like in the fall - this letter shares some information about our planning and about what will be guiding our work over the summer to ensure we can resume school on campus. Your feedback on our survey was very helpful and is informing our thinking about how to bring us all back to campus in alignment with public health requirements.

We expect school to start on August 25 and based on what we know today, we expect to be back on campus for in-person learning in some configuration. We know there is strong consensus across all constituents that this will be very positive for us all. However, we know that when school resumes, it will look and feel much different from our typical ways of being together on campus. We know flexibility, adaptability and creativity will be key for all of us as there will likely be shifts throughout the year from one mode of teaching and learning to another as we respond to current health mandates and the likely variability in Coronavirus impacts in our school community, Denver and Colorado.

The Current Public Health Reality

If we've learned anything during this pandemic experience, it is that we must be flexible and prepared to change our thinking at a moment's notice, which we remain committed to doing. Based on what we know now, and on a lot of collaboration and sharing of ideas across schools in all sectors here in Colorado, we believe the following public health parameters will frame the way we can come back together on campus in the fall:

- Socially distanced environments at all times
- Masking at all times
- Daily symptom monitoring of students and staff
- Small cohorts of children with limited number of teachers occupying one space for the school day
- Limited to no mixing of students and staff across cohorts during the day
- Frequent handwashing and facilities cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- Inclusive and supportive options for members of our community who are considered specifically vulnerable to Covid-19 exposure
- Virtual volunteering, class, grade level and community gatherings only and limited visitors to campus

As a result, we are planning for four potential scenarios, and we will be ready to flex between any one of these throughout the school year. The scenarios that frame our planning at Stanley, and at many area schools, are:

Scenario 1 – At-Home Learning Only

Scenario 2 – Blended On-Campus Learning and At-Home Learning

Scenario 3 – On-Campus Learning with Covid-19 Public Health Precautions

Scenario 4 – Unrestricted On-Campus Learning with Clearance from Public Health Authorities

Core Beliefs Will Guide Us

There will come a time when Stanley can return to tried and true practices that are well-known to us and that have served generations of children. And as we find our way forward in these uncertain times, we will remain committed to strong, collaborative and constructive parent-teacher partnerships, and we will continue to develop and deepen student-teacher relationships, both of which are hallmarks of the Stanley community.

As we plan for the 2020-2021 school year, we know we must work within whatever public health parameters apply in order to evolve, adjust and enhance our educational program and classroom practices. We are undertaking this work with fidelity to our core beliefs around teaching and learning and we know our new reality will require us all to be innovative and creative, and also realistic about what we can replicate under dramatically changed circumstances. Our planning efforts are guided by our mission, vision and values and these fundamental core principles:

- Educating the whole child
- Community and inclusion
- Health, safety and social and emotional well-being
- Keeping homeroom identities and teaching teams intact
- Choice and collaboration
- Relationships and relational teaching and learning
- Joyfulness, positivity and hope
- Developmentally appropriate approaches to teaching and learning
- Limited visitors to campus and all parent volunteering, class, grade level, and community gatherings will take place virtually

Stanley is Well Positioned

Thanks to the incredible work our teachers did this spring to keep our classrooms and our community intact, and to the behind the scenes work of our administrative team, Stanley is in a strong position to address the challenges that are ahead. Our enrollment for fall is strong across all grades and divisions with families who are excited to be part of our school community. Stanley also received a Payroll Protection Program loan as part of the federal Coronavirus relief program that gives us an added layer of financial protection. We continue to work with families to better support those with concerns about the financial commitment of tuition – the Stanley Community Support Fund has given us the ability to support individual families during these uncertain times.

Our Path Forward

Clearly, we've got a lot to figure out. As I mentioned last week, I am pleased to let you know that Sumant, incoming head of school, and Simone, incoming head of K12, have already joined our planning team, which includes the current division heads, our school operations leaders, and myself. This team will provide the structure for decision making and is meeting regularly at least once a week. These meetings will straddle the end of my tenure and beginning of Sumant's.

We will communicate with you all next on June 1 and as we head in to summer, you can expect to hear from classroom teachers, and you will hear from Sumant and the Stanley administration as we have new information to share about what to expect in the fall. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to me directly through June 30.

I will admit to some wistfulness knowing that I will not be here in the fall to manage all of this with you. And I couldn't be more confident in Sumant's leadership as he begins to engage with the Stanley community. He's just starting to find out how fortunate he is to have landed at Stanley BPS.

Warmly,
Tim