



THE KNOX SCHOOL

Long Island, New York

August 4, 2021

Dear Knox Families,

In our efforts to return to in-person learning, which is vital for the growth and success of our students and School, we have been closely watching the communications from the CDC and hoping for more guidance from New York State; however the New York State Department of Health recently announced that it *will not be providing reopening guidance for public and nonpublic schools*. Regardless of the politics of the pandemic, our goal at Knox is to maximize in-person teaching and learning, to be responsive to student needs, and to keep students and staff safe and healthy.

As such, the following guidelines are in place for the 2021/22 school year:

FOR ALL BOARDERS:

- You must bring proof of a negative PCR test that was administered within 72 hours of your arrival on campus.
- You will be Covid tested by a member of the Knox Health and Wellness staff within 72 hours of your arrival on campus.
- The School will continue to Covid test all boarders on a regular basis during the school year.
- No quarantine is required for incoming Boarders.

FOR ALL DAY STUDENTS:

- You must be fever free and feeling COMPLETELY WELL in order to attend school.
- Any Day student who visits the infirmary feeling unwell will be sent home immediately.

FOR ALL STUDENTS:

- The School recognizes that getting vaccinated is a personal choice, but strongly encourages eligible students to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to mitigate the risk of an outbreak on our campus.
- The School will provide transportation to and from vaccination sites for any student - Boarding or Day - who wishes to be vaccinated and provides written permission to the Health and Wellness Director from a parent or legal guardian.
- All Covid-19 protocols - i.e., daily temp screenings, Magnus Covid App, staggered lunch periods, separation of Boarders and Day students, social distancing, etc. - are lifted on campus unless New York State mandates otherwise.

Our goal is to be maskless, but our *priority* is to keep everyone safe and in-person.

Because we have lifted all other Covid-19 protocols, and the Delta variant is causing breakthrough cases even in individuals who are vaccinated, **masks will be required in all classrooms for the upcoming school year, at least for now**. Masks will not be required for outdoor activities or while eating meals. This is not a decision that the administrative team made lightly, and this requirement may very well change in the first couple of months of school depending on how things continue to unfold. Bear in mind that if we have an outbreak on our campus, we will be forced to move to emergency remote instruction, and this is something no one wants!

If we need to move to emergency remote instruction, we have plans in place, however at this time we are not offering a formal online program. We strongly believe that for the academic, physical and social and emotional well-being of our students, they need to be back in school.

We hope you will join us in driving the process at home so that we can deliver, and our students can receive, all that they deserve from a private school education.

See you all very soon!

Semper Ad Lucem

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Riccardi".

Virginia Riccardi
Head of School