



August 7, 2020

Hello Silverwood Community,

It is my fifth day on the job and, COVID-19 included, I could not be happier to be your new Head of School. I truly wish I could be writing to you about happier things than pandemic response planning, but I recognize how essential it is that you have as many details as possible about our reopening and learning plans. Yesterday, Silverwood's staff and I, in collaboration with our Board President Ryan Marriott, finalized our In-Person Learning Plan, which you will find following this letter. While this plan is still evolving, we felt it critically important to communicate both that **we will open for in-person learning**, and what that reopening will look like for students and families. It is important to stress that this plan is evolving.

Why the In-Person Learning Model?

Taking into consideration the parent survey results (74% of families want an in-person model), as well as staff support, we will be opening for Monday-Friday in-person learning in compliance with state reopening guidelines for this model. For those families that are unable to send their child to school, we are also offering a remote learning option via a Remote Learning Liaison who will work collaboratively with each family not attending school to create a remote learning program that works for their child.

Everyone's physical and mental health and safety are our top priorities. Seventy-nine percent of Silverwood families are concerned about the limited social opportunities incurred by a remote learning model. The policies and procedures outlined in the In-Person Learning Plan are to keep our students and staff safe. It saddens us to implement changes that are contrary to who we are as a tight-knit, relational community, but we must reopen safely. These are significant, temporary changes to how we will operate. We ask for your continued support and understanding as we move forward together through this pandemic.

Here are some key changes to keep in mind:

- Between drop-off and pick-up, campus will be secured. Only students and staff will be permitted to enter.
- Therefore, we cannot allow any visitors, volunteers, or trips off our campus.
- Students in grades 2nd-6th (Treehouse and Lodge) are encouraged to bring a digital device (laptop, ipad, tablet) to school.
 - We will remove and store a majority of the desktop computers to allow more learning space for students when it is necessary to learn within the classroom due to severely inclement weather.
 - We will send more details about digital devices next week

In addition, individual classroom teachers will be reaching out to families to introduce themselves, provide additional classroom specific information and schedule family-specific school material drop-off times before the **first day of school on Wednesday, September 2nd.**

What Can I Expect Between Now and the First Day of School?

- Bi-Weekly Updates via email from the Head of School
- Refinement to the In-Person Plan as needed in response to State and local guidelines.
- A clearly articulated phase-by-phase document, so you know what to expect from Silverwood in each phase. This will include clear guidelines about when Silverwood will be open and what would cause us to shift to a Remote Learning Plan.
- The Remote Learning Plan, a similar document to the In-Person Learning Plan, if we must shift learning modalities during the school year.
- Staff created videos that show the In-Person Learning Plan routines and procedures for each classroom.

In closing, we are aware of Governor Jay Inslee and Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal's recommendations. We feel confident that, as an independent school with small class sizes and 18 acres to occupy, we can safely provide outdoor, small-group, engaging, individualized instruction to our students.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Heaman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent and stylized.

Lisa Heaman
Head of School
Silverwood School