

Good Afternoon Parents,

I'd like to give you an update on our plans for the upcoming school year.

We still hope to start the school year in person, on campus at Carden. You all know that while Ventura County is on Governor Newsom's watchlist, schools are unable to meet in person. But the Governor did put in play a waiver for elementary schools.

The waiver process is still in development. But it appears we will need support from parents and teachers to apply. We plan to apply for a waiver from our Public Health Officer, Dr. Levin, as soon as the submission process becomes available to us.

Although there is no way to predict the outcome, Dr. Levin has shared that he does not want to stand in the way of schools opening. So I am optimistic.

A few reminders:

- Masks will be required for all students in the classroom. There will likely be an opportunity for mask breaks while on the yard when students are socially distanced. Now is the time to purchase kid-sized, comfortable masks for your children. Please have them practice wearing them each day.
- There is a strong likelihood a Covid test will be required for all students and staff before the new school year starts. Mr. Fleming is working with a lab to bring all families to Carden on one day for easy testing and quick results.
- There is a small chance we will begin the school year on September 10th, rather than on September 3rd if that will allow us to begin the year with in-person instruction.
- Play Program/after school care will only be offered to those that absolutely need it. Play Program will require a quarter long commitment.

I understand how stressful it is to not have a definitive plan in place for your children. But I would like to wait a bit longer, as there is still the real possibility of class on campus. I hope to make a final decision on in-person versus online school (to start the year) and a possible change to the start date by August 8th. A decision by the 8th would give parents and teachers nearly four weeks to finalize plans for the school year, which I hope will be sufficient. Our late start date may work to our advantage.

I will be sending out another email soon to keep you updated on the waiver process and any other developments. Thank you all for being so supportive.

Lisa Macias-Flavin