



Tidewater Academy
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Lisa B. Francis, M.Ed., Head of School

July 20, 2020

Dear Tidewater Academy Patrons,

I wanted to share preliminary information about our plan for opening school next month. Our COVID-19 Planning Team has been committed to studying various scenarios for re-opening and has considered the guidance from a host of educational and health-related organizations.

Our plan is to open school on August 26, 2020 and follow our published school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. School will be held in-person, 5 days a week. The size of our student body, coupled with our school facilities and resources, enables us to confidently comply with the extensive recommendations for re-opening and deliver a traditional academic format.

We understand that there are families hesitant to return to an in-person school environment. We encourage you to discuss your concerns with us so we can determine a virtual learning option that best meets your needs.

Our COVID-19 Planning Team has developed our comprehensive school plan that will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education for approval. Once it is approved, we will mail our patrons more specific details about re-opening. Below are a few of the novel safety measures that Tidewater Academy has planned for school re-opening:

- Desks in classrooms will be 6 feet apart
- Social distancing floor stickers will be applied where needed
- Students boarding buses will have temperatures checked by bus drivers
- Students' temperatures will be checked when students arrive at school
- Building access will be limited to students and staff
- Before and aftercare will not be offered at this time
- Students will not change classes. Teachers will rotate to their classes
- Resource teachers will push into classes so students will not be travelling to another room
- Students will have lunch in their classroom or outdoors
- Masks will be required to be worn until students are in their desks and 6 feet apart
- Desk shields will be utilized in specific classrooms
- All water fountains will be removed and replaced with container filling stations
- Sanitizing stations will be installed throughout school buildings and in classrooms
- Limiting Class Sizes

This list is not exhaustive but is intended to give you an idea of how seriously we deem student and staff safety. Please do not hesitate to contact us to set up an appointment and discuss any questions or concerns. I am always available by phone or email. I hope everyone has had a great summer and is staying safe. I look forward to *seeing* everyone August 26, 2020.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Francis, M.Ed.
Head of School