



SUFFIELD  
ACADEMY

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August 3, 2020

Dear Suffield Students and Parents,

We are continuing preparations for the 2020-2021 academic year and I wanted to send along an update as August begins. As you know, we are currently planning to have both on-campus and remote learning programs. While some international students have communicated that they will be beginning the year in our remote program, most students are planning to be on-campus.

As noted in my July 15 letter, our first weeks of classes will be remote as our boarders settle into campus life in family-style cohorts. Among many goals is the notion of acclimating to a different style of campus life emphasizing use of facemasks, social distancing, and rigorous hygiene and self-care. Boarding students within driving distance of Suffield [500 miles] can self-isolate off campus during this time if they prefer as long as their place of isolation is in a state not listed on Connecticut's travel advisory list [<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Travel>]. On-campus boarding students will be with their cohorts for remote classes, meals, and afternoon activities. During this period day students are expected to practice rigorous self-care and participate in classes from home. Specific sport-related activities will not begin until late September at the earliest; the afternoon activities during the cohorting period will be focused on health and fitness. Additional specifics about the cohorting period will be sent later this month.

All boarding families received a letter from Greg Lynch asking for emergency contact information and travel plans. That letter can be accessed on our website. If families need assistance in identifying an emergency contact, please contact Greg Lynch [[glynch@suffieldacademy.org](mailto:glynch@suffieldacademy.org)].

Regarding COVID-19 testing, I want to again note you will be contacted this week by Linda Kaplan our Director of Health Services introducing you to Diligent Urgent Care. They will help you arrange for tests in your home community. We would like you to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test within ten days of your arrival to campus. We understand delays in testing results differ by state or country and ask that you use the ten-day period as a guideline. If there is a longer delay needed please contact Linda Kaplan in our health center [[lkaplan@suffieldacademy.org](mailto:lkaplan@suffieldacademy.org)]. Prior to resuming on-campus classes [around September 21] the entire community will again be tested.

In the coming days all students and families will receive a community commitment contract. This outlines our shared expectations of personal conduct and hygiene during this especially challenging period. As noted above, we are fully committed to all community members wearing masks except in their dorm rooms, to social distancing, and to aggressive personal hygiene. We need everyone's full support as we begin the academic year.

Our next communication will include specifics about the remote program we are offering to all students. This will include video recordings of classes that can be accessed at convenient times across time zones as well as personal access to all teachers. Students will receive traditional letter grades.

Obviously as conditions change our school will be ready to pivot if necessary. We look forward to getting started with the 2020-2021 academic year and send best wishes from Suffield.

Sincerely,

Charles Cahn III  
Head of School