



September 2nd, 2022

Greetings Academy Family,

As we approach the new school year 2022-2023, we hope you had a restful summer break. To encourage a safe return to school, the Academy will employ prevention strategies to keep our scholars safe.

- Cleaning and disinfection will remain a priority. Our skilled maintenance staff will perform routine cleaning as well as special disinfection as needed.
- Our health nurses and counselors will be on hand should your scholar feel unwell during the school day.
- The Academy's COVID-19 Response Team will handle all confidential health information, notify families and staff of class or building-wide exposures, and follow-up with persons for appropriate clearance to return to school per the most recent NYS and local county department of health guidelines for K-12 schools. Persons returning must mask on days 6-10 per current CDC and NYS policy.
- All persons have the option to mask while at school. The Academy may recommend masking per CDC community risk level. The Academy does not support bullying of any kind if persons choose to mask or be unmasked.
- New York State has provided home Covid-19 rapid testing kits. The Academy will distribute these primarily in the event of a known class exposure or diagnostic testing. However, the CDC further recommends screening testing during high-risk activities, e.g. return to school, return from break, field trips, prom, other large events. Therefore, the Academy will supply all students and staff with 1 COVID home testing kit on the first day of school, September 6th, 2022. Please monitor your scholar for symptoms, and if feeling unwell, test your scholar. Repeat in 48 hours as needed.

- During the school year, please notify the school as soon as possible if your scholar tests positive by calling the offices or using the following electronic form or QR code:



<https://www.jotform.com/app/222334015095144>

- In the event of an exposure, all classmates and possible contacts will be contacted for recommended series testing per most recent FDA and local health department advisement. Some schools have an onsite Limited Service Laboratory (LSL). If you have given permission for the school to test your scholar, the COVID Response Team will coordinate lab testing in the event of an exposure. All testers will receive their paper results to be brought home. All class scholars will receive a home kit if you prefer home testing.
- Caregivers, we request partnership for a safer school year. Please continue to monitor your scholar for symptoms and promote the following behaviors and healthy practices:
 - Keep your scholar home if sick.
 - Scholars should test if having symptoms; were notified they were exposed to a now-positive person; recently traveled; or attended a large gathering.
 - The Academy supports vaccination for eligible persons. Children age 16 months and above may receive the COVID-19 vaccine series.
 - Caregivers, we support you to Stay Up to Date. Persons vaccinated with Pfizer and Moderna, may receive a booster after 5 months from last dose; Johnson and Johnson after 2 months. Second boosters are available for persons age 50+, 4 months after first booster.
 - Teach your scholars healthy hand hygiene, to cough into their sleeves, and to tell you when they feel unwell.

Please note, policies may be adapted per CDC's guidance for K-12 outbreaks. Caregivers will be informed of changes.

The health and safety of our Academy family are our top priority.

Educationally Yours,

Nicholas Stapleton
Chief Academic Officer