



June 17, 2020

Dear Seabury Families,

Last week, the State of Washington with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) published the first set of guidelines for schools to use in planning for reopening. School districts and private schools will be using these guidelines along with recommendations that may evolve over the summer to create plans for the fall.

The guidelines have given us a framework, but there are still lots of decisions to make about specific details of our implementation plans. We are working with OSPI, the health departments, the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS) and the Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS) as well as consulting with doctors in our community to make sure our plans are in line with guidelines, support best practices for health and safety, and also work with the culture and program of Seabury School.

We are committed to sharing our plans with you as they develop. While there is much to be decided, there are a number of things we know about what to expect for the fall. Please be aware that state guidelines could change if transmission rates increase or as new information is learned about the virus. The plans listed below are based on what we know now and are subject to change if state requirements change.

- **Our expectation is to be open in September.** OSPI it a priority to open school and have students in class for as much of the year as possible. A change in local transmission rates could cause temporary closures, but OSPI has made it clear that being open will be the priority.
- We know that even if we are open, there may be families who are not ready to send their child to school right away. **Seabury will structure our program so that students can be enrolled and either attend in person or through distance learning.** We will be using distance learning tools and platforms both when we are at school and when we are at home so that kids and families are familiar with them in the event of a closure during the school year. This will also allow students who are not able to be at school in person to participate virtually.
- In the event of a school closure, **we expect that we will be able to keep our pre-k class open as a childcare center.** It is licensed through the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and has separate guidelines for remaining open than the K-8 program which is overseen by OSPI.
- **We will have adult family orientations** prior to the start of school to go over plans, answer questions, and make sure families are prepared for both in-person and distance learning.
- Families will be encouraged to transport their kids to and from school on their own, but for those who need it, **we expect our bus and van service to run next year.** Capacity will be limited and windows will be open for ventilation.
- **There will be daily health checks for students and staff on arrival, including temperature checks.** Expect the possibility of staggered arrival times to make that possible.
- **Cleaning and sanitizing will happen daily, both during the day and after school.** This summer we are looking at everything from the best way to sanitize classrooms to the kind of filters we need in our HVAC systems. We will have the systems, personnel and equipment in place to be able to meet all cleaning and sanitizing guidelines.

The guidelines that cause the most concern for both educators and families are those that have to do with social distancing and mask wearing. But we'll do what we need to do to keep our students and their loved ones as safe as possible. We will also find ways to preserve the sense of family and community that we so value at Seabury.



Here is what we know as of now about social distancing and masks.

- **Classrooms will operate independently of each other to reduce transmission between groups of students** and, therefore, to minimize the need to shut down the whole school in the event of an exposure.
- **Classroom configurations will be designed to allow for the maximum number of students to be at school.** Six-foot distancing will limit the number of students in each classroom space – we want to make the best use of that space so that we can have as many of our students as possible at school every day. Fortunately, Seabury’s program lends itself to multiage classes. Each student will get the program and level of challenge they are ready for regardless of which classroom they are in, just as they always do. And because our teachers know our children so well, they will be able to create classroom communities that support each child’s social and emotional needs whether the class is single grade or multi-age.
- **Masks will be required for students and adults.** We are working with colleague schools to find the best ways to use masks at school, especially with our youngest kids. Several schools we know have found successful ways to use them with young students so they are not scary or limiting in the classroom, and we will use every bit of information we can find to create a plan that will work for Seabury.
- **Students and staff will provide their own masks.** Students should expect to have an extra mask or two at school in case something happens during the day that necessitates changing masks.
- **Rules about masks, social distancing and other changes will be implemented in ways that are in line with Seabury’s culture.** We will work with students in an age appropriate way to help them learn to social distance and wear masks safely. We will help our students through social-emotional issues that arise as we weather these changes together.
- Outside is the safest place to be with others right now. So, **we plan on being outside as much as possible.**

We know that each answer we offer raises more questions. Our staff is 100 percent invested in finding the answers that will be right for Seabury’s kids, that honor our culture, that support their needs as gifted and sensitive people, and that ensure our program continues to support and challenge kids in the ways it always has.

Please join us this Thursday, June 18, at 4 p.m. for our first virtual Town Hall. I’ll do my best to answer your questions.

We also invite you to take a look at our Summer@Seabury virtual camp offerings that are open to the community as well as the virtual clubs we are running this summer for students who will be returning in the fall. We look forward to staying in touch and to keeping our kids connected, learning and having fun together this summer.

In Service,
Sandi Wollum
Head of School