



SEABURYSCHOOL
EDUCATION WITH THE BRAKES OFF

8-12-2020

Dear Seabury families:

As you know, Seabury has been preparing all summer to ensure that we continue to provide a robust, intellectually stimulating, active, child-centered program designed to meet the unique needs of each of our students in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Yesterday, we received [THIS NOTICE](#) from Dr. Anthony Chen, director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, changing his **recommendation** to a **requirement** that **all schools “begin the school year using distance learning** until COVID-19 disease activity in Pierce County decreases to a level safe to re-open schools for in-person learning.” While there are some encouraging signs the transmission rates may have peaked and are possibly heading down, they are still extremely high – double what they were when we closed school and shifted to distance learning in March.

As a result, Seabury is moving forward with the expectation that we will open the school year for grades K-8 in distance learning mode. Our pre-k class is regulated under childcare guidelines, so it will open in person as long as childcare facilities are still able to be open. For our K-8 classes, we will monitor

community transmission rates and as soon as we get to the "moderate" level as determined by the state's school decision tree, we will move to in-person learning, starting with our youngest students.

We recognize this is disappointing news for many families. We long to get our kids back to school with their teachers and friends, just as our teachers long to be with their students.

But we still look forward to connecting with each Seabury student and family so we can kick off this school year with positivity and joy. We plan to offer one-on-one back-to-school conferences during the first week of school so that teachers can begin to build connections with their students and ensure they have everything in place to do distance learning successfully. We will also have a distance learning package ready for your student, and we hope it will inspire some back-to-school excitement!

Expect more detailed information in the coming weeks, and particularly at our next Town Hall on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 4 p.m. ([ZOOM link](#))

Regardless of whether we are together in person or together through virtual means, school will start on Sept. 2. We are committed to making it the best year possible for each of our kids and families. We have been diligently working all summer to make sure that distance learning is engaging for our kids and doable for our families. We have listened to parent feedback and have made extensive changes to our distance learning program.

Dr. Chen asks for our partnership as we care for each other and members of our larger community. Please join us in following the health department's recommendations to maintain physical distance, wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay home when you're sick so that we can continue to bring

transmission rates down and get our kids physically back to school as soon as possible. Seabury School will be ready to reopen in-person at school as soon as it is safe.

**In service,
Sandi Wollum
Head of school**