

Dear Summerfield Community,

Between Thanksgiving and the New Year we are in the midst of a holiday season like no other in our lifetimes. Cooler weather is bringing with it the usual seasonal symptoms for many, but these come with new questions and concerns. We have become more aware - perhaps than ever before - of how our decisions and actions impact others in our community and even around the world. The real life example of how we are all connected can be a good born from these challenges, and it can be particularly powerful for children and young people who are watching and learning from our examples.

Soon we will go on our winter break, a time we are traditionally gathering and often traveling for vacation. New Year's Day is on a Friday, and Early Childhood begins school on the following Monday the 4th and the rest of the school on Wednesday the 6th. With the condition of the virus in our county, state and country, we are asking you once again to consider your holiday plans and follow the travel and gathering protocols before your child or children return to campus. We are asking the same of our faculty and staff.

It is important to recognize that, while we know children are less impacted by this virus, we have many in vulnerable categories in our community, from family members living in the same house to teachers and staff. It is also important to remember that any case means a loss of on campus school time for one but also possibly for a whole class, a section of the school or the school as a whole. These closures could be our choice as a school, or they could be mandated by the health department.

Families as well as teachers and staff may have very good reasons to travel or gather. In addition, no matter how careful we are, we can have a close contact with someone who has the virus. There is no stigma in any of this. What is important is to recognize that it is essential for everyone in the community to be open and honest about these situations and decisions and share them with those in the school trained to respond appropriately.

It is up to each family to make the choices about traveling or gathering and missing on campus school as a result. As a school, we respect these decisions and will do all we can to minimize the impact on the learning experience.

Our holidays this season remind us with joy that we are all connected. This message is the

foundation of an ethical, caring community, one we hope to continually be building together so that our young people learn to carry this out into the world they will change for the better.

We wish you peace in this holiday season,

Ignacio Garat, Jason Gross and Rachel McGarva
The Governance Council

 [Holiday Considerations & Travel Guidelines.pdf](#)