

Governance Council Update 5/26/2020

The process of careful steps to open up the county has begun. To keep the progress moving in the right direction, we all need to be mindful of the protocols and our responsibility to follow them.

A few careful but important steps are happening at school as well. Like you, we get no warning when the change in the health order will come and what it will say. We have been working hard to respond and get ready both for changes right now and for what the fall will bring.

Please keep in mind that in general the campus remains closed except for planned pick-up for distance learning and buying produce at the farm stand. Please follow social distancing protocols if you need to come on to the campus for these reasons.

Here are a few important updates:

- On May 14th the Health Order was amended to allow daycare for non-essential workers who were in the next tier allowed back to work. Our Early Childhood program is a licensed daycare facility, so we have opened to 12 children under very strict protocols. The children must stay in one group of 12, wear masks, have a health screening daily, and bathrooms must be sanitized after each use.

This means we will be dedicating two of the Sophia Hall bathrooms for the ECE daycare. Bathrooms will be locked to make sure they are properly sanitized. If you need to be on campus, please be respectful and a good example for the children who are there for daycare.

- We are not able to have our summer camps meet these protocols. All who have registered for camps have been contacted and refunds are in process.
- We can have in-car ceremonies to celebrate the 8th and 12th grades. Due to the social distancing protocols, these are only open to families in one car and the faculty.
- We have made a decision on the beginning of school for next year. Our goal is to increase our flexibility to make the most of time we can be on campus:
 - If we can be on campus - even if that is in smaller groups - we will begin school on Monday, August 3rd.
 - If distance learning must continue, we will begin on Monday, August 24th.

While we understand the complexities of this for your summer planning, if we can all be this flexible - with the start date and throughout the year - we can plan breaks around times that we cannot or likely cannot be on campus, for example in the high flu season. We will plan to have many extra potential school days so that if we have to cancel, we can still reach our average of about 170 days. Thus the end of school date is not set yet. While there may well be distance learning, either for a part of each class at a time or for

the whole school, the purpose of this plan is to have as many days on campus as possible.

We are very optimistic about continuing to provide the highest quality Waldorf education that we strive for at Summerfield. While next year - and perhaps even the one following - will continue to be unusual, we know we can work with you, our mission and vision for the school and our beautiful campus to provide a complete and truly enriching learning experience.

Thank you again for the trust in us you show to send your children to our school.

Warmly,
Ignacio Garat, Jason Gross and Rachel McGarva
The Governance Council