

May 16, 2020

Dear Summerfield Community,

As we shared in the Town Hall, we are putting a great deal of energy as a Faculty and Staff into preparations for next year, formed around what seem the most likely scenarios for how school will be mandated to operate. While the County has made one careful step forward toward reopening - daycare and parks with strict social distancing protocols - they will move slowly, watch the virus data and expand or retract on the reopening accordingly. In terms of school in the fall, it is still the case that we will get information on in-school or distance learning and health protocols late in the summer, so we are making preparations to help us be swift, flexible and nimble in our ability to adapt school to what we can and cannot do in order to provide a rich Waldorf experience that meets our very high standards for this education. Here are some of the ways we are preparing:

- We have formed a Health Protocol Committee, which includes our school doctor, Jennifer Schmitt, to help us understand and be ready for the health requirements, from distancing to screenings to sanitization and more.
- We have mandated a Calendar Committee to revisit next year's calendar with the goal of maximizing flexibility and on campus learning in whatever form and duration we are able. We see the possibility of starting school earlier in August - either from home or on campus, if allowed - to add days we can use to enhance learning or make the most of time we might be on campus over the course of the year. **If we change the calendar, particularly start and end of school dates, we will inform you of this by the end of May.**
- The College of Teachers has started meeting with the three pedagogical Core Groups to work on the question of how to make learning from home even more rooted in our view of education as a Waldorf school. Based on what we have learned so far and your feedback, we are imagining together the needs of our students and families and how we can meet them in a way that is true to our pedagogical values and mission.

We are excited by the opportunities this challenge affords to re-examine our values, our mission and our practices. Refining, adapting, improving with the goal of deepening the way we work with students is an essential element of being a good Waldorf school. When we are creative, the education grows and thrives. Thank you again for your support, trust and the sincerity with which you continue to work with us in these times.

Ignacio Garat, Jason Gross and Rachel McGarva  
The Governance Council