



September 24, 2020

Dear CAA Family,

Tonight the Executive Committee met to review the relationship the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has on our educational processes at CAA. As you may be aware, the rate of community spread in Clark County has risen over the last four weeks. This Tuesday we entered the high-risk category for community spread of COVID-19 and many schools in the area delayed their plans to begin limited in-person instruction in October. Due to the rate of community spread of COVID-19 and factors related to operating our school in this environment, CAA has determined it is in the best interest of our students and the community to operate for at least one additional week under our current modified schedule. If the rate of spread decreases between now and next Tuesday, we will transition to a full-day schedule on October 5th. However, if the rate of spread increases, we will continue to operate under our modified schedule for three weeks. Also, should something unexpected cause the situation to drastically change for the better or worse, we will evaluate the situation and come to you with alternative plans that continue to maintain the priorities and mission of Columbia Adventist Academy.

Several factors played into this decision to extend operation under the modified schedule. This includes concerns for community spread and our students' ability to adjust to the ongoing challenge of wearing a mask and physically distancing from other students. We all know from our own personal struggles with masks and distancing - it is indeed a struggle to accept and follow these restrictions because they seem so unnatural to us as social beings. However, they are necessary if we want to have in-person learning. Please, encourage your student so cooperate, wear appropriately fitting masks, wear them as they are designed to be worn, and follow the minimum guideline of maintaining six feet of distance between themselves and other students. This includes maintaining a minimum of six feet of physical distance when outside the buildings too, anywhere on campus - parking lots, sidewalks, picnic tables, etc.

One of the benefits of the decision to operate for at least one more week on our modified schedule relates to the need for students to complete MAP Assessments sometime in the next four weeks. We have developed a MAP assessment schedule that will allow us to complete the assessments next week during the modified schedule so that when we can return to a full-day schedule, testing will already be completed and both students and staff can use the data gained from the assessments to facilitate learning.

Also, due to the number of students who are currently learning online because of health concerns, and the likelihood that this number will increase as we enter cold and flu season, CAA is adapting our standard full-day schedule to include four days of in-person learning Monday through Thursday with a virtual day on Friday. Fridays will continue to include a virtual chapel, applied learning directed by teachers, student-teacher conferences, and the option of direct virtual instruction for advanced placement and dual-credit classes. Additionally, when we are able to transition to this full-day schedule, changes will be made to the structure of the day so that school will dismiss Monday through Thursday at 3:05pm instead of 3:20pm.

I am sure we can all agree, we are living in unprecedented times and we face unprecedented challenges. You can be proud of your students, their teachers, and CAA's board of directors as they rise to the occasion and face these challenges with positive attitudes and a strong faith in the all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God of Heaven. It is such a privilege to serve as a member of the CAA family. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Blessings,
Mr. Heinrich