

Parents and Families,

This past spring was a time in our school history like we've never experienced before due to COVID-19. While the pandemic and subsequent school closure tested all of us, we have emerged more resilient and having learned a lot as a school body.

As we approach the heat of the summer, we continue to work on plans for next year. To effectively address concerns around COVID-19 and to continue to improve our instruction practice in light of our "new normal," we have created a Task Force of administrators. This Task Force will serve to facilitate smaller committees of our faculty, staff, parents and professionals to develop and implement policies and procedures for starting school in August, safely and with JOY.

The Task Force is looking first at the health and safety of our community. We will implement policies and procedures that are informed by local, state, and national agencies, professional organizations and best practices for educational environments to keep our students and teachers safe while at school. Second, we are working to ensure that the educational needs of students continue to be addressed throughout the year regardless of potential school closings. This includes academic programming, student cohorts, scheduling, best practices in school and online, continued enrichments and available online learning tools. Third, continue to recruit and retain Joy School Students through the admissions and transition processes. Fourth, and most notable, we will continue to foster relationships and make connections with you and your children. At TJS, relationships are incredibly important, and we realize that a virtual learning environment like we had in spring 2020 can make cultivating relationships more challenging. We've gained a lot of knowledge this past school year, both through our experience with online learning and also through feedback from families. Because of this, our efforts to cultivate relationships will include possible on campus events, albeit limited and controlled, opportunities to build relationships between students, teachers and parents both in school and in the event of school closure, online.

We have learned so much over the past few months about how to effectively engage our students in the event of another school closure. We are confident that we can continue to provide the Joy School experience for our families through any adversity and truly appreciate your patience. Please contact us with suggestions, questions or praise! On the following page, please find an outline of the COVID-19 Task Force and Committees.

### **General Information about the Task Force**

To adequately respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and implement a plan for the 2020-2021 school year, The Joy School has created a Task Force that will serve to advise and generate solutions for the start of school in August and throughout the school year. In addition to addressing the health and safety of The School with regard to COVID-19, the Task Force will also be able to address any other potential emergencies in the future.

#### **Primary Purpose:**

To address the health and safety of our students, families, faculty and staff in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during a return to the School and in the event of future school closures

#### **Secondary Purpose:**

To design an informational and accountability structure to facilitate efficient and effective communications in the event of any other emergency

#### **Tertiary Purpose:**

To create a clear methodology for the dissemination of information about The Joy School for general and crisis communications, branding and value proposition, both internally and externally

The Task Force is made of four committees that are coordinated by a team of administrators and the Head of School. The committees include: Health and Safety, Programming, Enrollment Management, and Connection. Each committee is comprised of the owner of the committee and teachers, staff and other members of The Joy School community. In addition to these group members, professionals from the appropriate areas will also be included to guide decision making and inform on best practice for The School in addressing the needs of the community through this period and in the event of new information about COVID-19.

If you have questions about specifics related to the Task Force or one or more of the committees, you can reach out to one of the owners of each respective committee. Each person on the committee was selected based on the strengths they possess and the areas in which they are working, taking into account overlap they might have into different areas of The School. The Task Force reports directly to Shara Bumgarner. Each owner will contact their committee directly with more information and plans for the role of their committee.

#### **Task Force: Rob Wise**

Health and Safety: Lara Leigh Bergoon

Programming: Rachel Williams

Enrollment Management: Rob Wise

Connections: Laura Gray