

February 3, 2021

Dear Families,

As we begin February, we want to thank everyone - students, parents, and faculty/staff - for your support of CDH during our hybrid school model. We simply could not have offered any level of in-person learning without our collective attention to the health and safety of all.

**While many of us are experiencing pandemic fatigue, we cannot waver in our commitment.** Our success has been due to three main protocols: mandatory face masks, social distancing, and proper hand hygiene. In addition, we have experienced very little, if any, spread of the virus in the school building because of our aggressive quarantining measures. Your cooperation, particularly by reporting positive student cases or exposure, is critical to our success.

We continue to monitor current trends and CDC/MDH recommendations. While we cannot predict the future, we do want to share the most recent pandemic considerations as we plan our next steps.

- While we are still at a higher rate of infections than our state experienced this past fall when we opened under a hybrid structure, the current positivity rate is trending downward.
- We cannot predict the impact of the more contagious variants (UK, Brazil and others). In other words, we need to be prepared for the variants to change our rate of infections, hospitalizations and deaths.
- The rollout for vaccines is underway in Minnesota and will be critical for a return to 'normalcy,' but it will take time.

**Vaccines** It is extremely good news that some of our school staff have already received the first dose of the vaccine or are on a waiting list. We expect that many more will be vaccinated in the upcoming weeks. One thing to note is that those who receive the vaccine are not fully protected until two weeks after the final dose is administered. It will be mid-March before the initial group will reach maximum immunity.

**Hybrid Structure** CDH will continue to operate under the hybrid model for the foreseeable future. This hybrid structure maintains a balance between our community health and the provision of in-person learning. ***This will not be forever; we all look forward to the day when all of our students and faculty are back on campus together.***

From a practical standpoint, once we bring back all students, social distancing will become difficult due to the size of our student body and our available classroom space.

*Most importantly, please know that we remain committed to working with the faculty on ways to bring more students back on campus before the end of the year if possible.*

### **Student Life.**

Student Support Wednesdays have been a very successful change for our students. Just last Wednesday, we had over 1000 appointments made for students and teachers to be able to work together on campus. This level of support was needed and has been well-utilized by both teachers and students who want or need additional time on campus.

Spring Events We are committed to looking for ways to enhance our student experience in a safe manner. To that end, we are already assessing spring events that are important and meaningful to our students, especially our seniors. We will keep you updated.

Activities/Athletic Events While most of our activities and athletics have resumed under new restrictions, it is critical that all spectators wear a mask at all times, as well as maintain social distancing and proper hygiene. This is mandatory and will be enforced.

In closing, we appreciate your patience and support as we make difficult decisions regarding how CDH provides the highest quality education we can during the pandemic. In your homes and on campus, please continue your dedication to those things that have kept our community relatively healthy - face masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene. In addition, we support the MDH and the CDC in encouraging no indoor gatherings outside of the people in your household. As a reminder, any student who travels out-of-state will need to quarantine for 10 days before returning to on-campus learning. Let's stay healthy, CDH!

We wish you and your family continued health and are keeping you in our prayers.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.