

August 24, 2021

Dear Sayre Families,

It was a joy to welcome all of our students back on campus last week! As we enter our first full week of school, I am writing with several updates.

1. We are committed to an open line of communication with our families, and to that end, our division heads will be reaching out this week to outline our communication protocols. Sayre School has always been proud of our connection with families, and we rely on your communication with us when you have questions or concerns about our program or your child. The communication protocols will share the best point of contact for a range of situations that might arise during the course of the year. We hope you find this new resource helpful.
2. Social media seems to be a ubiquitous part of many of our lives. In an effort to maintain professional relationships and avoid bias, please know that our updated social media policy prohibits employees from “friending” students and discourages employees from “friending” or accepting friend requests from parents. We realize that some of our employees are also Sayre parents, so we leave the ultimate decision up to the employee to understand that they are responsible for the content they choose to share.
3. Even though the Governor’s Executive Order has been rescinded, we will keep our mask requirement in all three divisions along with all of our previously announced protocols because the risk of changing this policy will inevitably lead to many quarantined classrooms. I met with the nurses and considered factors such as positivity rates, new cases in Lexington, and cases in the 18 and under age group. With the current KY COVID positivity rate of 12.8%, 486 COVID cases in Lexington today, over 25% of new cases in individuals age 18 and under, and student quarantines already taking place at numerous private and public schools in our area, we will stay the course with our protocols. We are constantly assessing the situation in our community; these opening weeks of school will provide us with a baseline to evaluate our policies as part of the ongoing review process of our COVID protocols. As I mentioned in my earlier correspondence, it is possible that adjustments to protocols could be division-specific. We will continue to provide our community with updates, but please know that our highest priorities right now are to keep our community safe and to keep our children learning in person.

We have also added two documents to Safe at Sayre titled COVID-19 in Schools which can be found in the “Staying Home When Sick or After Exposure” and “Quarantine, Isolation, and Safe Return to Sayre” sections. The latter document details the difference in the quarantining process for vaccinated and unvaccinated students. If your child has received the vaccine, submitting that information to our nurses expedites the contact tracing process and helps us quickly determine quarantine designations. In addition, having accurate vaccination data will aid in our future deliberations about safety protocols. We continue to encourage all age-eligible students to receive the vaccine. If you have any questions about our COVID protocols, please do not hesitate to contact our nurses.

Back to School Nights begin this week, with the Lower and Upper School programs scheduled for Thursday.

I look forward to seeing you at these important events that introduce your child’s teachers and our program.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay Spartan strong!

Stephen Manella
Head of School