



August 3, 2020

Dear University School of the Lowcountry parent(s)/guardian(s):

This packet includes several enclosures, summarized below, related to issues of health and your child. Please review them. As applicable, please complete and return any forms which need information and signatures from you.

Guiding principles for this year's learning on-campus

These are our guiding principles for on-campus learning:

- 6 feet of separation (indoor and outdoor class spaces)
- frequent handwashing or equivalent
- regularly disinfecting high-touch surfaces
- wearing masks
- operating in clean air (purified indoor and/or outside)
- deeper overnight cleaning/disinfecting

Overview of learning on-campus

Monday, 8/17- this week begins orientation and socializing (more info below).

Monday, 8/24 – this week begin academic instruction.

We will share our rough draft plan -- each division has been working on theirs -- with everyone in the next few days. We are currently making sure the faculty feel good about our on-campus plans and that we are addressing their concerns for the students and themselves. This has included providing a babysitter for their children through the first week of September. Please know that we have the flexibility to adjust -- right from the outset -- to make sure we all feel good about our plans, staffing, etc.

We'll also take care of our remote learning students, whether for a portion or all of this school year. In addition to online learning, students will take part in virtual social activities with the rest of the community (students and teachers) and faculty will visit and safely socialize with them at their homes.

The Intermediate School will be divided into classrooms of 7-10 students with a teacher conducting lessons in the classroom or outdoors in an outside learning space. Sometimes a class will be taught by a teacher remotely, and a teacher intern or teacher will facilitate that class on-campus. PE is everyday outside, and lunch and recess will be outside (weather permitting).

The Middle and Upper Schools will operate in hubs – learning spaces overseen by a teacher or teacher intern. This is their “home” space when on-campus. Students will have longer classes that meet less frequently, but they will include breaks to go outside (and space out and remove masks). Teachers will bring students to their class spaces from their hubs. They may be smaller inside classroom groupings (5 students for most classrooms) or outside (which may be larger). Many classes will be flipped (where the student watches a teacher presentation and examines materials in advance) and the in-person session is more focused on understanding, related activities, and questions. Students will have PE a few days a week, and we'll balance this with outdoor partner walking during class breaks. Lunch and recess will be outside (weather permitting).

Socializing and Emotional Health – our first week of the school year (8/17-8/21)

Orientation and socializing (and empathy) is set for the week of August 17.

- We will bring the students back on campus in small groups over the course of the week. This allows us to review and practice safe on-campus learning, and we have divided the day into two sessions.
- Students will come to no more than 1 session on a given day. We hope to have everyone on campus 2-3 times, and we can engage students virtually each day.
- The AM sessions (7:40-10:40 AM, 3 hours) are devoted to Orientation (including our principles for operating safely in-person) and catching up with teachers, and it will also account for students learning at home.
- The PM sessions (12:00-3:00, 3 hours) are strictly for socializing and getting to know others better (both in-person and blending on-line with remote learning students).

Medical authorization to treat students

An updated medical form must be completed and submitted each school year. Please re-submit a Medical Authorization Form to University School whenever there are any additions or changes of information for your student(s).

When sick children should stay home

Is your child well enough to go to school today? South Carolina state law prohibits children with some infectious and communicable diseases from attending school (and some require a clearance note to be submitted to school upon return). For more information, please examine the enclosed brochure, updated for 2020-2021 that also addresses COVID-19, "*Staying Home From School When Your Child Is Sick*," from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Immunizations

State law also mandates specific immunizations for children at certain ages, and there are new updated requirements for 2020-2021 (attached). Please check with your child's physician to make sure they are up to date and submit a copy of the current immunization record to USL:

- 6th grade has been added to the requirement for (2) doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.
- 8th grade has been added to the requirement for three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

Copies of current immunization records must be kept for each student enrolled at the school. SC DHEC administers the immunization program statewide in both public and private schools. If you have any questions, please contact the DHEC Division of Immunizations at 800-277-4687 or immunize@dhec.sc.gov.

Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication Administration Request

If your child needs medication administration at school, please fully read and complete the appropriate form(s) and submit them to USL.

Your prompt and thorough attention is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jason Kreutner
Head of School