INFORMATION REGARDING REOPENING FOR THE 2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR

The following on campus accommodations are in response to Childrens’ Hospital Of Philadelphia, PA Department of Education and CDC recommendations and guidelines.

*SEPTEMBER 10TH UPDATES:
- If you are asymptomatic and would like to be tested for COVID-19 in Philadelphia, the following link identifies testing sites: [https://www.phila.gov/covid-testing-sites](https://www.phila.gov/covid-testing-sites)
- Montgomery County also is now offering testing sites for anyone who is asymptomatic and would like to be tested. Please see this document for more information: [https://frenchschoolphila.myschoolapp.com/ftpimages/1428/download/download_4815734.pdf](https://frenchschoolphila.myschoolapp.com/ftpimages/1428/download/download_4815734.pdf)

*JULY 15TH UPDATES:
- Per the current CDC guidelines, students will be required to wear masks at all times.
- HVAC systems in both buildings have been adjusted to increase fresh airflow and circulation throughout the buildings and filtering systems have been upgraded.
- We will have a registered nurse on campus daily to assist us in implementation of procedures and protocols for safe entry to school.

NECESSARY IMPLEMENTATIONS FOR SAFETY FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

*OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY
- Hygiene and disinfection strategies for school families begin in the home
- All immunizations must be up-to-date for student entry at the start of the school year
- Each faculty, staff and school student family must:
  - Launder and surface clean all items traveling between home and school
  - Increase hand washing
  - Report daily on the school portal. Look on “Resource Board” and click on “Daily Reporting”. This report will require each family to verify that no child/ren, family member, nor anyone with whom the child/ren or family member has had contact is symptomatic. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER SCHOOL UNTIL DAILY REPORTING IS COMPLETE EACH SCHOOL DAY.**
- Symptomatic members of the school community, or those with symptomatic members of their household must stay home and quarantine; remote learning will
be activated for 14 days or longer with staff ready to implement remote learning in collaboration with the in-school program.

- **July 15th Update:** any member of the school community who is symptomatic and voluntarily gets a test, which is negative, may return to school 48 hours after being fever and symptom-free. Return to school will be cleared by our school nurse in advance of the return.
- Any school parent or guardian who feels that remote learning is in his/her child/ren’s best interest may move to online learning at any time.
- **August 12th update** - *Please note that under the advice of medical professionals, any child with signs of upper respiratory illness whose family chooses not to have the child tested, must stay home for 10 days.*

**DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

- Parents and caregivers will be required to **use the car line for drop-off/pick-up.** Temperatures may be taken in the car line before children enter the building. We will greatly limit the number of people in and out of the building. As such, any drop-offs and pick-ups of children or materials during the school day must be scheduled with the main office and arranged at the door.
- Students will enter the school buildings (teacher and staff led) through different doors and go directly to classrooms.
- Masks will be required for all adults working in the school.
- All students will wear masks at all times (we will provide EFIP masks). Sharing of belongings will be greatly minimized.
- All classrooms will be equipped with non-toxic surface cleaners. Classroom ‘touch’ surfaces (desks, door knobs, light switches, chairs, computer keyboards and screens, etc.) will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Regular and frequent hand washing schedules will be implemented.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are newly installed throughout both buildings.
- Windows and classroom doors will be left open to increase ventilation.
- Outdoor education will be encouraged as much as possible.
- Classrooms will have limited shelving, tables, etc. to allow for maximum spacing of desks.
- Recess will be organized in smaller groups with class cohorts remaining together.
- Hallways will be “one way.”
- Transition times will be staggered.
- All special area classes (science, music, etc.) will take place in the child’s homeroom.
- Children will be spread out utilizing the entire MPR for lunch and/or eat in classrooms or outside (to be determined as we move closer to opening).
- The kitchen will implement all previous and new recommendations for food safety procedures (Chef Paul will share more in an upcoming communication).
● After care will be limited to very small groups- only pre-registered students may attend.
● After school classes and study hall will have limited enrollment on campus.
● Late afternoon online classes and study hall will also be offered -- more information to come.
● Physical education will involve non-contact activities.
● Water fountains will not be utilized. Filling stations will be installed and all children and adults will bring a labeled water bottle each day. The bottle needs to be brought home and washed each day.
● *Any member of the school community who begins to exhibit symptoms of illness during the school day will be immediately sent home. Adults will leave the premises and children will wait in a designated, isolated space for pick-up. All school families must have a “pick-up” plan pre-determined.
● Buildings will be cleaned several times throughout the school day, with additional cleaning staff hired. Deep cleaning will be done each evening in accordance with the CDC’s cleaning guidelines.
● We will be using NanoSeptic self-cleaning sleeves and mats on high-touch surfaces such as door handles to reduce spread of contaminants.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

● What day/time will school begin?
School will open on September 9th, both on campus and online.
Times are as follows:
  On campus drop-off upper school: 7:30am to 8:30am, pick-up 2:30pm to 3:30pm.
  On campus drop-off lower school: 7:45am to 8:45am, pick-up 2:30pm to 3:30pm.
  Online classes will begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 pm with independent work and support/enrichment in the afternoons.

● What will the online program look like?
The online program will follow the same daily progression as the on campus program. It will be taught by EFIP faculty. Class assignments will be made as soon as registration is complete and by August 25th. Registration is available via the portal on the Resource Board. Online and on campus students and teachers will interact when it makes sense for the program. If your family needs devices, the school will provide you with necessary materials.
The program will include direct instruction every school day, beginning September 9th, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. Afternoons will consist of independent assignments, and age/ level appropriate small groups. As of today, Peter Moyer, Melanie Ghez, Sabine Oberbach, and the middle school faculty will participate in online teaching.

● Do children and teachers need to wear masks on campus while indoors?
Yes. Mask breaks will be allowed during snack and lunch times. Masks will be worn at all other times indoors.

● May my child wear his/her own mask?
School-issued masks will be provided, but children may wear their own if they prefer.

● What about the children who won't keep their masks on nor stay seated away from others?
We will make every effort to make it work, but the on campus experience may be too stressful for some children. In this case, we will work with individual families to move to online learning.

- **What happens if someone gets sick at school? What happens if a classmate of my child has symptoms?**
  If a child or adult begins to have signs or symptoms during the school day, he or she will be removed from the class. He or she will go to an isolation space, designated at each campus, and our nurse will move through next steps in consultation with the Montgomery County Health Department, as warranted. The school will send an email to the class families if a child or adult from your child’s class is removed from the classroom because of signs or symptoms.

- **Will there be on-campus after care?**
  There will be limited spaces open for after care at the lower school and on-campus study hall at the upper school. Pre-registration is required - no 'drop-ins.' Pre-registration is available via the portal on the Resource Board.

- **Will there be school lunch? Where?**
  Yes! Chef Paul and his team are working to provide a delicious lunch. It will be delivered to the classroom daily as all children will eat in the classroom. The September menu is available for viewing on our website.

- **How often will the children go outside?**
  The playgrounds will be divided for class cohorts to play and learn outside as often as possible.

- **Is there flexibility between going from in-person to online learning and vice versa?**
  While we are trying to plan as clearly as we can, any family who has registered for September online who is considering a move to on campus should contact Kathy Kotchick directly.

  Any child who is planning to come back to campus but daily reporting warrants staying at home will be welcomed in the online classroom via the class portal link.

- **Will there be a way for the children and parents to meet their teachers before the first day of school?**
  Online teachers will schedule a zoom and on campus teachers are planning a welcome activity to be announced in an up-coming correspondence.

- **Will the faculty and children be tested?**
  It is currently not recommended for asymptomatic children or adults to be tested.

- **Will there be bussing from my school district?**
  We are encouraging families to transport children to and from school if possible. Families should contact you own transportation office to inquire about protocols, if using the bus is necessary.

- **How long will the carline take?**
  If families have completed Daily Reporting, a quick temperature check and removal from the car should not take long.

- **How does the NanoSeptic Surface work?**
  NanoSeptic Skins and Mats turn dirty high traffic, public touchpoints into continuously self-cleaning surfaces. Powered by light, NanoSeptic surfaces utilize mineral nano-crystals which create a powerful oxidation reaction. Working 24/7, the
surface continually oxidizes organic contaminants. Unlike traditional disinfectants and cleaners, the NanoSeptic surface uses no poisons, heavy metals or chemicals, and nothing is released from the surface since the nano-crystals are molecularly bonded to the material.

- **How do NanoSeptics “Self-Clean?”**
  The NanoSeptic surface continuously oxidizes organic contaminants at the microscopic level. Large-scale contaminants must still be removed to allow the surface to do its job. This is similar to disinfectants, which require surfaces to be cleaned before the disinfectant can be effective.

**PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN TUITION REBATE IN THE EVENT OF CLOSURES DURING THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The Board of the French International School of Philadelphia is offering a “Pre-K and Kindergarten Family Support Rebate” to families paying tuition who have children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

In cases where a child at these levels is kept out of the school building for more than five consecutive days (not interrupted by school vacation) because of the shutdown of a class or of the school building due to COVID-related restrictions, the school will offer $250 per affected child to families that pay tuition. The maximum for any child’s rebate for this reason is $1,000 for the 2020-2021 school year.

For those families who have the means to do so, the school encourages them to return the rebate to the school as a tax-deductible donation for the Beyond Borders fund to support school families facing additional need.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN FAMILY SUPPORT REBATE**

- **Will partial weeks also be refunded?** No. The rebate will be given if and when a child is kept out of the school building for five school days in a row (uninterrupted by vacation).
- **My child is in 1st grade, why do I not receive any rebate?** While we understand the challenges of looking after young children during school building closures, the board has decided to make the cut-off at 1st grade, where children are required to be schooled. Financial constraints also prevent us from offering this rebate at the grade levels.
- **If we receive financial aid for tuition, will the full $250 rebate amount still be paid?** Yes, the full amount of $250 per child per week will be paid regardless of the amount of financial aid the family receives.
- **What if my child’s tuition is funded by the French bourse?** In this instance, you are not eligible to receive a rebate.
- **The company I work for pays my child’s tuition. Will I receive a rebate or will it go to the company I work for and that pays tuition?** In this instance, neither family nor sponsoring company will receive a rebate. The aid is designed as a family assistance.
• **What happens if school is closed for longer than 4 weeks?** Will the maximum be revisited? No. The maximum is based on affordability and will not be extended for the 20/21 school year.

• **How will the funds be paid?** We will contact qualifying families within two weeks of the qualifying event and ask whether they wish to receive a rebate check by mail or whether they wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the Beyond Borders Fund supporting financial aid for school families.

• **What about my unique situation that is not described here?** The Board has provided the Head of School with latitude to deal with individual circumstances, except the $1000 per child maximum.