



St. Albans - Back to School

August 5, 2020

Dear Parents,

Given the state guidelines for schools delivered on July 17, we have been monitoring the COVID-19 Watchlist closely. Today marks 14 days until the start of school at St. Albans, and because Placer County remains on the Covid-19 Watchlist - and state health officials announced yesterday that cases are currently being underreported - we are announcing that **St. Albans Country Day School will temporarily begin the year in Distance Learning.**

Our staff and campus are ready to transition quickly to on-campus instruction once the county is off the monitoring list for 14 days, and once it is safe to do so. In the meantime, **we feel confident that our distance learning program is the most integrated and comprehensive teacher-led k-8th grade distance learning in the region.**

We learned a lot through our initial distance learning program in the spring. We have made many adjustments and added technological improvements so that our dedicated teachers can maximize instructional time, engagement and personalized support for our students. Distance learning will follow the standard schedule each day, and will include regularly scheduled ancillary classes including visual and performing arts, Spanish, Library, PE and computers. All of the necessary details about distance learning will be shared via email next week.

Once Placer County is off the Watchlist for 14 days and students are allowed to return to school, we will offer another option for families that prefer to have their children remain home for longer than the governor's current suggested timeline. Worksheets, class materials, email and several live streamed lessons per day will be provided to students in order to keep them paced with their class until they return. Though this option does not match the experience of our in-class or distance learning programs, we believe it allows families to uniquely adjust the program to best meet their needs.

The **School Waiver information** ([linked here](#)) was released Monday, and the Executive Board and I are currently working through the application requirements and the options we may consider within this model. The guidance limits waiver access to elementary instruction for grades K - 6th grades, whether or not a school offers instruction to additional grades. The survey we sent last week showed that 57% of parents who responded are in favor of applying for a waiver to open school in some capacity while Placer County is on the Watchlist (and 73% of faculty and staff indicated their preference for the waiver application in a survey this week). I will continue to keep you informed as we thoughtfully approach this opportunity and await guidance from the county.

Of course we are all disappointed that we cannot begin the year together, raising the flag, and singing each other into the new year. However, we are devoted to our students' and faculty's health, safety, and well being, and we feel that we do that best by following the guidelines provided to all schools at this time.

We see the path forward clearly ahead and we are devoted to our students' success in every learning environment.

Early next week, you can expect a comprehensive message from us with the rest of the information you will need to start the school year, including:

- Distance Learning Expectations
- How to pick up your child's textbooks and materials
- Details about our **Virtual Back to School Night** on Monday, August 17 at 6:50 pm.
- First Day of School Instruction on Wednesday, August 19.

Meanwhile, you will find additional updates and preparation for school below.

We look forward to seeing all of our students on August 19th!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laura Bernauer

Welcome to our two new faculty members!

Mrs. Emerson - Kindergarten

This summer, Mrs. Lisa Fernandez shared that she would not be returning to St. Albans for the the coming school year, and we quickly opened the search to fill this important position. We received over 30 applications and are happy to report that our search committee, consisting of Mrs. Laura Herron, Mrs. Susan Silva, Mrs. Lynn Zug, Mrs. Teresa Alger and Mrs. Bernauer unanimously agreed to invite Mrs. Sarah Emerson to join our St. Albans team.



Mrs. Emerson received her undergraduate degree, teaching credential and Masters in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She initially taught Kindergarten for the Placer Hills Elementary School District for three years and then taught for a year in Hawaii at Mary, Star of the Sea School.

At Mary, Star of the Sea School, Mrs. Emerson had the opportunity to build the Kindergarten curriculum from the ground up and she taught their distance learning summer school program to the Kindergarten and first grade students.

The entire Faculty and Staff are very excited to welcome Mrs. Emerson and we are looking forward to a terrific school year!



Mrs. Perron - Upper Grade Spanish

After 13 years at St. Albans Country Day School, Mrs. Reed Goodey resigned as the Upper Grade Spanish Teacher to relocate with her family to South Dakota this month.

She was an integral part of our search committee, joining Mrs. Rebeca Ferreira, Mrs. Sue Watson, Mrs. Angie Tennison, and Mrs. Bernauer. The committee unanimously agreed upon Mrs. Andrea Perron to join our team as the new Upper Grade Spanish Teacher.

Mrs. Perron grew up in Bogotá, Columbia where she received her degree from Universidad Francisco Jose de Caldas in Education with an emphasis in Modern

Languages, Spanish and ESL. After relocating to Canada and then the United States, she lived and worked in Pennsylvania and then moved to Rocklin. She has taught in Columbia, Pennsylvania, and most recently for the Rocklin School District. She holds a Single Subject California Teaching Credential.

Mrs. Goodey's enthusiastic love for teaching and her students makes her one in a million and we will miss her tremendously. While I know that everyone joins me in wishing her a heartfelt goodbye, we also are excited to welcome Mrs. Perron to our St. Albans community!

Parent Points & Parent Work Day

Parent Point Expectations Reduced

The Executive Board reviewed Parent Point obligations and agreed that Parent Point Requirements will be limited to 10 points during the first half of the year, and will be reassessed at that time to ensure reasonable expectations for our families.



August 15 Parent Work Day RESCHEDULED

Thank you to all of you who signed up for Parent Work Day on August 15. We are rescheduling the event to align with the return of students and will send a new communication once a new date is set!

Preparing to Return to School

Uniforms

Please be sure to review the 2020-21 Student Parent Handbook for our standard uniform requirements and plan accordingly. All uniform items must be from the Dennis Uniform Company. Here is a link to [easy ordering and sizing instructions](#).

Masking Requirements

Masking will be required for all students and adults while on campus, unless a teacher chooses to use the outdoor learning space which accommodates open air and socially distanced interaction.

1. Masks can be any color or print, but must be school appropriate, non-offensive, not considered derogatory or otherwise disrespectful

2. This means: no writing, skulls, weapons, faces, or drug/alcohol related images.
 3. Masks must also: cover the nose and mouth to maintain effectiveness; be secured to minimize the need to adjust frequently; and be made of a solid cotton blend material.
 4. As a reminder: the purpose of wearing a mask is to limit a person's moist breath from reaching others and to stop other's moist breath from reaching the wearer, thus serving as a barrier to COVID19 spread. No mesh or lace coverings will be allowed.
 5. Administration will make the final determination as to the suitability of any mask.
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To our most amazing St. Albans family:

We are working around the clock to create and provide the safest and most meaningful and robust educational experience possible for each and every one of our students. We value each of you and your families more than you can know.

We will get through these times... and we will do much more than that. We will learn together... we will teach each other... we will understand each other better... we will give each other grace. We will BECOME more... because we are a family.

Thank you from your St. Albans Faculty and Staff

