

From the Head of School



Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

This last round of testing has been a trial for all of us. Results were delayed, and we felt compelled to close our campuses for an extra day. Yesterday, many test results came in, more slowly than we would have liked, and over 100 tests remained outstanding into the evening.

Yesterday afternoon unfolded, and a second conundrum emerged. As expected, positive results came in, but over the course of the day, the number of positive cases began to exceed statistical expectations. To validate the results, we asked seven staff members to get new PCR tests offsite. Each of these tests came back negative, which cast further doubt on each positive test result. Consequently, members of our Health Services Team have been in touch with each person/family with a positive result to offer them the opportunity to be retested. Unfortunately, there is little I can do to make up for the inconvenience and anxiety.

This morning, members of my Admin Team and I met with members of our Medical Advisory Team to discuss our approach to the test results. We agreed to retest all positive cases, to retest pending cases (as their results still are not in) here on the City Avenue campus today, and to continue to move forward with our regular testing. My Admin Team has made every effort to reach community members in these two categories. If we missed you, the testing company will be in Linton Gym on the City Ave campus until 7 pm today, Wednesday, January 20.

Since the beginning of the year, we have made every effort to keep our community safe, with routine testing a part of our mitigation plan. Time and time again, our community has lived up to our *We Go Further* message. On campus, we are masked, maintaining physical distance, maintaining good hand hygiene, and we've invested in air filtration and purification and additional outdoor teaching spaces. These strategies alone have proven effective in many schools, which is why we feel comfortable remaining open this week. While testing has been a significant investment that has provided a measure of security in uncertain times, it is our community's behavior and the campus mitigation efforts that will keep us safe every day.

As we move forward to seek a new testing company, I want to assure you that we will not be doing business with this company moving into the future and that we will be filing formal

complaints.

Sincerely,



Craig N. Sellers
Head of School



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

Lower School Campus • 228 Old Gulph Road • Wynnewood, PA 19096
Middle/Upper School Campus • 1101 City Ave. • Wynnewood, PA 19096

610.649.7440

www.friendscentral.org

To unsubscribe [click here](#).