



FRIENDS'
CENTRAL
SCHOOL



Thursday, August 13, 2020

Dear Middle School Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. We have been working hard to welcome our students back to Friends' Central. While we continue to prepare for a [return to face-to-face learning](#), we also continue to monitor COVID-19 numbers and trends in our area, the availability of testing, and more. We want to be sure that everyone is as safe as possible when we return to school in the fall, including our students and teachers.

We understand that families are weighing their individual comfort level with personal health and safety for in-person school. As shared in previous communications, we have planned an option for students to be able to learn from home while in-person school is occurring. Should a family choose this option, the student will not physically attend school but will begin the year remotely through Virtual FCS. Families might choose this because of health concerns within the household or due to personal decisions about the risks associated with in-person school.

The following information outlines how this distance learning option will work. **Please read this information carefully and let us know if your child will be participating remotely no later than Wednesday, August 19 [via this form](#).**

Distance Learning Overview:

Students learning remotely will follow the same daily schedule as our students learning on campus (see schedule below). The student will join all academic classes, including homeroom and advisory, via Zoom. We have outfitted our classrooms with technology to make this option work for the teacher in the classroom and the student(s) at home.

Students will log in to each class session to experience and follow the daily lesson. Teachers will have the ability to call on students working from home or to see responses via the chat function. Students will use Canvas to keep up with daily assignments and submit work. Students can also email teachers directly for support outside of class times.

Athletics:

Students will have the opportunity to participate in athletics asynchronously. We will have sport-specific workouts online for students, and coaches or members of our athletic

department will also be available to answer questions about physical fitness and a student's chosen sport.

Community Block:

Many of our community block sessions will be offered virtually, which is true both for students on campus and those who might be learning remotely. Students will have access to much of the content produced during this block on Canvas. Occasionally, there will be some programming, such as student activities being held outdoors, that might not be conducive to joining via Zoom.

Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities:

Our clubs and co-curricular activities/programming, such as affinity groups, will meet online for all students because we cannot mix cohorts. Because of this virtual format, students who are learning entirely remotely will be able to participate in our various activities. Students learning from home will also be able to participate in Chorus, Orchestra, Jazz Band, and our Middle School play; these activities will also be virtual for all students.

Student Support:

Access to counseling, nursing, and learning support will be available through confidential platforms for remote learners. Both regularly scheduled sessions and services "as needed" can be scheduled directly by students and caregivers by contacting [Frederick Pratt](#) (MS/US Counselor), [Jill MacDougall](#) (Learning Specialist), or [Penny Rosenblum](#) (School Nurse).

Deciding Upon & Committing to This Option:

Families who wish to participate in remote learning must let us know by **Wednesday, August 19** [via this form](#). Due to health and safety concerns, students will be unable to transition back and forth between learning models. Choosing this option means that families are committing to their child learning remotely through the month of September. We will reach out in late September to families with children learning from home to determine if they would like to continue with remote learning or transition to in-person learning in October.

If a student begins in-person for September but the student/family then decides to shift to entirely remote learning while in-person school continues, that commitment will then continue through the month.

Please note that students who do not feel well on a given day or who must stay home for a period of time will also be able to learn remotely through the procedures outlined here and can return to campus once they have recovered. What we are looking to learn from this letter and form is how many families are going to **begin** the year remotely due to family considerations and decisions; this will be very helpful in our ongoing planning.

Things to Consider:

We understand that there are a number of factors to consider when choosing this option. Keeping students at home will certainly mitigate health risks for your child and your household. Students participating in this model will have the added responsibilities that come with distance learning: checking in with teachers, emailing advisors, and managing a schedule independently, to name a few. Parents will likely need to provide additional guidance and supervision for students who are learning from home. Students learning from home might also feel one more step removed from the social life of their classmates, which we expect might be difficult for Middle School-aged students. We hope that the virtual co-curricular activities for all students will help with this.

We are pleased to be able to offer the option of being entirely remote so that families can weigh the many factors and do what is best for their child and their family. Again, please let us know if you choose remote learning by **Wednesday, August 19** [via this form](#).

As always, you can email us at any time with questions or concerns. We are happy to talk. Thank you all for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Alexa Quinn
Middle School Principal

Andy White
Assistant Principal

	A	B	C	D	E	F
8:20-8:30	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:30-9:20	1	5	3	1	5	3
9:20-9:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
9:30-10:20	2	6	4	2	6	4
10:20-11:15	Community Time/Recess	Community Time/Recess	Community Time/Recess	Community Time/Recess	Community Time/Recess	Community Time/Recess
11:20-12:10	3	1	5	3	1	5
12:10-12:50	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:50-1:40	4	2	6	4	2	6
1:40-2:20	Advisory/ Athletics	Advisory/ Athletics	Advisory/ Athletics	Advisory/ Athletics	Advisory/ Athletics	Advisory/ Athletics
2:20-3:00						



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

610.649.7440
www.friendscentral.org

To unsubscribe [click here.](#)