



# FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

## **A Community Compact for the Friends' Central School Community**

As we approach the fall of 2020, it is important that we – employees, students, and families – embrace and commit to a shared sense of responsibilities and rights as community members of Friends' Central School. We begin with the notion that a healthy community is composed of individuals who co-exist in a state of mutual respect and care is fundamental to our founding testimonies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand that many in our community may feel increased concern about their health and wellbeing and that this concern reasonably leads to a desire for a different kind of vigilance. All students and employees have the right to feel safe at school and understand the need of others to feel safe, as well. And we must support their safety. At the same time, we acknowledge that community members may be exposed to COVID-19 during work or school, and we are committed to making every reasonable effort to prevent this from happening and to reduce community impact should it happen.

It is essential that we stay faithful to ourselves, our school community, and the community at large. This means that our interactions with friends, strangers, students, and adults, on campus and off, should be aware, respectful, and courteous. This means embracing and complying with the rules and policies created to keep our community safe and healthy. It also means awareness of each person around us, the people around them, and so on. While any one of us may have a higher risk tolerance, or live in what we consider a low-risk household, joining together in community means that we all need to adjust our behavior, even when it is inconvenient or feels like someone else's burden.

Our community's health will be maximized if we accept and share the burden of care and wellness together. Please support this goal by engaging your children in this important conversation.

To fulfill our shared commitment to one another, we ask that you read, acknowledge, and adhere to the following:

- ❖ All students and employees will come to campus prepared to wear a mask and other protective gear throughout the day as necessary, will wash or sanitize hands frequently, and will follow physical distancing policies. Families can support their child(ren) by modeling and practicing this behavior at home.
- ❖ We have engaged RR Testing Inc. to provide regular testing for our employees and students, both before they return to campus learning and in an ongoing way. This testing will be conducted on one of our campuses and will be required for those who are returning to campus for indoor activities. If you are not able to attend the testing, you will need to secure testing within 24 hours of the FCS test date and present our nurses with a negative test result before returning to campus.
- ❖ All students and employees who will be on campus will complete a wellness check every morning before school hours. This check will involve using an app (which we will share later this month) and downloading the results before coming to school. Results will be reviewed by our school nurses.
- ❖ If a member of a Friends' Central household is exposed to COVID-19, it is our expectation that the exposed household member will self-quarantine for 14 days, or as required by current public guidelines, and will notify FCS school nurses. Students who must self-isolate will be educated remotely, and accommodations will be made for faculty to teach remotely.
- ❖ If any member of a Friends' Central household contracts COVID-19, the household will follow medical guidance and will notify FCS school nurses. No member of this household will return to campus until 10 days have passed since the latest onset of symptoms of any member of their household and they have provided FCS nurses with written medical clearance prior to their return.

- ❖ If any student or employee contracts COVID-19, the School will work with county health officials to determine the areas that need to be cleaned and sanitized, and which members of the community need to remain home for a period of time. In this case, virtual learning will proceed for affected students.
- ❖ All students and employees will receive training so that each can adhere to newly established community norms and contribute to a healthy environment when interacting with one another, in and outside of classrooms.
- ❖ Visitors to campus will be limited, and a stringent Visitor Policy will be in place. For the duration of the pandemic, parents will not be allowed in school buildings. Any in-person conversations with teachers and administrators will be scheduled outdoors. Essential visitors, such as repair people, will enter areas that have been cleared of students and teachers and will be required to follow safety protocols which will be distributed to them ahead of their visit.
- ❖ It is our expectation that all FCS household members who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will seek medical attention, and if there is concern for COVID-19 infection, will isolate accordingly as stated above.
- ❖ When we return in the fall, members of Friends' Central households will agree to be mindful of health guidelines and observe safe practices when traveling, and adhere to required quarantines upon return.
- ❖ Members of Friends' Central households will agree to maintain physical distance and safety standards outside of school. This includes critically assessing outside lessons, activities, playdates, and social gatherings to make sure they are consistent with safe practices.

Just a few months ago, this Community Compact would have been unimaginable, and yet here we are, constructing our “new normal” for the coming fall. It is our fervent expectation that this Community Compact is an expression of common sense that everyone will abide by. We thank you in advance for working with us and remaining flexible and patient with us and with one another.

*Updated August 2020*