

Dear KWS Parents,

June 29, 2020

We are writing to share with you our Health and Safety Plan Draft for Reopening School for 2020-21. The plan is posted on the KWS website and there is a link provided at the end of this message. We respectfully request that you read the rest of this message before reading the plan.

This is a plan that has been developed out of work with the faculty, staff and parent body. The faculty, staff, and selected parent consultants with expertise in various related areas and perspectives have had a chance to review the plan before our sharing it with you. The Board of Trustees also had a chance to see the plan as well. As stated, the plan is a draft and revisions can be made through the process detailed in the plan itself.

We are aware that there is a wide range of viewpoints in our parent body on the Covid situation and on potential plans for reopening school. Our approach has been to consider the recommended protocols for health and safety in conjunction with our educational goals at KWS and what we consider to be feasible and reasonable for us to do to mitigate risk.

We are a Waldorf School, and as such we are guided by the principles of providing a developmentally appropriate education that strives to give our students the opportunities to develop their whole selves - intellectually, emotionally, and physically in the context of the time we are living. That is our guiding light. At the same time, the world we are living in is providing us with many challenges that are unprecedented. We need to recognize this and be responsive to these new challenges. We are faced with the Covid-19 situation, and one of the principles guiding our decision making is to do our best to take steps to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. These two principles - a developmentally appropriate education and reducing the risk for the spread of this novel illness have been the principles that we have followed in developing this plan. Our intention is that this plan can be as supportive of as many members of our community as possible, recognizing that our community includes individuals in low-risk categories as well as individuals in high-risk categories. Our approach has been to look at recommended guidelines for the reopening of schools and try to think of what we can do to achieve the intention of the guideline in ways that work for our unique education and setting.

Whatever your viewpoint is, we hope that you can appreciate our goals in our planning and look at the plan through that lens.

As a Waldorf school we are committed to fostering healthy social responsibility within our student body and our whole community. As such we are anticipating the many opportunities to work in collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and parents that will arise out of the adjustments and considerations that will have to be made as we navigate shifts in our daily habits.

We welcome questions that you may have about the plan. To that end we will be holding a community forum via zoom on Friday, July 10th at 7:30 p.m. on our school's reopening. More details about the forum will be forthcoming. We will be taking questions that evening, but if you wish to send questions and comments prior to the forum, please send them to governingteam@kimberton.org

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We hope that it gives you some context for reading the [Health and Safety Plan Draft](#).

Sincerely,

Kevin Hughes, Dean of School and Governing Team
John Holmes, Lower School Core Team and Governing Team
Deb Merroth-Ahola, High School Core Team and Governing Team
Ona Wetherall, Lower School Core Team and Governing Team
Karen Hite, Lower School Core Team
Elisabeth Burgess, High School Core Team
Anna Zay, High School Core Team

“Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, and send them forth in freedom.”
Rudolf Steiner