



A Message from the Head of School

May 5, 2021

Dear Madeira Families,

As we conclude the '20-'21 school year, we are already planning in earnest for our students' return in the fall. A new school year – a different kind of year from this one – awaits and beckons, with the hallmark of a Madeira education that our students, faculty, and staff live, learn, and grow in an inclusive and connected community. We are eager to embrace being together in the year ahead.

Please carefully read this letter as it details our current plans and expectations for student learning and engagement next year.

On-campus learning for 2021-22

We are planning for robust on-campus learning and we expect the vast majority of our students will be in person for the entirety of the year. We will not be offering a hybrid option or the ability to toggle back and forth between in-person and remote learning.

There are two groups of students who might not be able to come to campus, and students in these groups will be eligible to apply for remote learning status as described below:

- **Students with documented health conditions who are at greater physical risk in our congregate living community.** (*Approved students can select to be remote for the entirety of Mods 1-3 or for the full year.*)
- **International Students who have visa delays.** (*Approved students may come to campus as soon as they are able to travel.*)

*If your student falls into one of these two groups, please **complete [this form](#) by July 1** to request consideration for remote learning status.*

It is important to note that we are not offering a full remote learning program. We will use technology to allow approved remote learners to participate in classes synchronously. Remote learners may have reduced options for D Block activities and more limited opportunities for community engagement as we plan to focus on in-person activities.

Expectations for 2021-22

Next year, we will resume our attendance policy as outlined in our Student & Family Handbook. If a student is absent from school or on an approved leave (medical or otherwise), she will be

absent and not taking classes remotely. Students who are engaged in **off-campus activities** (such as club sports or a job) may do so and come to campus for in-person learning. All students will be expected to exercise good judgement and adhere to the Madeira Pledge and our COVID mitigation protocols.

Madeira will continue to follow the guidance of experts, as we have this year, in determining our procedures and protocols and as the pandemic landscape continues to evolve. Our students' health and safety are always our top priorities. To that end, we encourage you to spend time over the summer engaging with your daughter about what it means to "return to school" this fall. Our administrative team and school counselors are eager to partner with you. Additionally, we recommend the following resources:

- [CNN Article: Returning to School After Covid](#)
- [Articles by Dr. Lisa Damour](#)
- [Reducing Children's Anxiety with a Return to In-Person Learning](#)
- [Tips for Setting Priorities This School Year](#)
- [Preparing for Back to School Success](#)
- [Managing Your Own Anxiety During School Reopening](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership.

With excitement,

Gretchen Warner
Head of School