



October 16, 2020

Hello Woodlands Families,

We are writing to share with you some updated news on the **Woodlands School Return to School 2020 Plan.**

In July 2020 we received direction from The City of Milwaukee Health Department and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Office of Charter Schools regarding Order #4 from the City of Milwaukee Health Department which spoke to school closures. We received direction that schools in Milwaukee were not allowed to reopen for face-to-face instruction. In August 2020, the City of Milwaukee Health Department allowed schools that submitted an approved reopening plan the ability to reopen for face to face instruction. While Woodlands did submit a reopening plan that was approved, it was designated as a "Phase II Plan". **Woodlands School, Inc. chose to open 100% virtually for the first 30-45 school days in the 2020-21 school year.**

We have been watching the reports from the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services and have learned that the number of new cases of Coronavirus and number of deaths this week reached the highest of the pandemic. The state of Wisconsin has reported its highest ever average of new cases, (2,727). over the last seven days. Wisconsin had more positive tests in the six weeks from Sept. 1st than it had in the first eight months of the year.

While our main work is to provide an engaging and meaningful learning experience for Woodlands children and their families, we are committed to ensure that we do so in a safe and healthy environment. The health and safety of our students and staff are our main priority. We also learned through the recent parent, student and staff Return to School 2020-21 surveys, health and safety is also a priority for the Woodlands community.

Taking all of this information and feedback into consideration, we do not feel that it is a good time to move to any face-to-face instruction as outlined in our Woodlands Phase B/2 Hybrid Plan. Therefore, Woodlands School, Inc. will remain using 100% virtual instruction until further notice.

Please know that we do not take making this decision lightly. We know the best way for children to learn is in an environment where they get to interact with their teacher and other students. We also recognize that we have families, students and staff that are very much wanting to come back together in the classroom. We cannot, in good conscience, jeopardize the health and safety of our families and staff because we want to be together in school. The health experts are asking citizens to stay home unless they must do otherwise. We must work to help Milwaukee county and the state of Wisconsin reduce the spread of COVID-19.



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We will continue to listen to health experts and monitor this situation with the hope of being able to move into our hybrid model later this school year. We will also continue to make sure the Woodlands community is kept up to date with any new information as it is received.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the three of us if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you,

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