



Dear Lakehill Community,

As you can imagine, the excitement on campus about the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year is brimming. Our first gathering as a community is the Back to School Picnic on Saturday, August 21, at the Roger L. Perry Campus. It will be great to see everyone in person!

With the beginning of the year upon us, we are planning for a more traditional year where our students can engage in the many activities that make the Lakehill experience incredible. Our main priority is always to create and maintain the safest environment possible for our students to learn and for our faculty to teach. During the height of the COVID pandemic, remote learning provided a continuation of an education that would have not been possible in years past, yet studies have shown that in-person learning improves educational attainment across all student ages and improves mental health among children and adolescents. Lakehill's goal for the 2021-2022 academic year is to provide in-person learning for the entire year.

As you know, the number of COVID cases declined earlier this year as vaccinations became more readily available, and cases reached an all-time low in late June and early July. Unfortunately, the national and Dallas County data over the past few weeks has shown a rise in cases due to the Delta variant. Hospital admissions in Dallas county are currently the same as they were in February 2021, October 2020, and August 2020, and while many or most of the current COVID cases are among those not vaccinated, it has been shown that even vaccinated individuals can transmit the virus.

Lakehill is a mixed community of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, and we do not monitor vaccine status. Only children 12 and older are eligible for vaccination, meaning that at least half of our student body is not vaccinated. While in general, transmission rates are low among younger children, particularly with proper preventative measures, emerging COVID variants have shown an increased risk of transmission.

With the above in mind and in conjunction with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dallas County Health and Human Services, **Lakehill will be instituting a universal indoor mask policy for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors beginning August 16, 2021.** This policy will be continuously monitored with the goal of hopefully lifting it if COVID cases decline and recommendations from policy advisory groups change. We will maintain daily cleaning and disinfecting of our facilities, as well as keep MERV 13 filters in our HVAC system and air purifiers in each classroom. In the event we have a positive COVID case during the school year, contact tracing will be performed and appropriate quarantine measures will be instituted. Additionally, the School may ask about vaccination status to determine the appropriate quarantine procedures.

As of now, we will refrain from daily temperature checks and use of desk dividers; however, plexiglass dividers will be used in the cafeteria. We will relax desk separation distances within classrooms and will plan to proceed with typical extracurricular

activities that were limited last academic year. Parent visitors will need advance approval from administration and masks will need to be worn during the entirety of the visit. At this time, no lunchroom visitors will be permitted.

While we wish we could reset to “normal” pre-COVID procedures, we believe an indoor mask policy is a reasonable compromise given the current status of rising COVID cases. Our hope is that this will protect our children, faculty, and staff and help us maintain the overwhelming benefits of in-person learning, socialization, and extracurricular activities enjoyed at Lakehill Preparatory School.

[The COVID Safety and Response Plan for the 2021-2022 school year is linked here.](#)
Please take a moment to review the information and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Parents, thank you for the privilege to educate your children. Students, we are looking forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Art Hall
Head of School