



ST PETER ACADEMY

June 10, 2020

Dear St. Peter Academy Parents and Guardians,

The St Peter Academy Governing Board began planning for the reopening of our school at the beginning of April, utilizing as a guide, the known best practices in social distancing, group sizes, and health and safety protocols. Subsequently, the board formed a re-opening committee representative of our community's stakeholders which has been meeting weekly since the start of May to discuss and actively undertake preparations for a welcoming and safe return to school.

On June 1st the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) issued its first set of reopening guidelines, followed by an updated version of the reopening guidelines on June 8th. These state guidelines were carefully examined and thoroughly discussed to ensure compliance in our ongoing reopening strategy. We anticipate similar guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for our return to classes this Fall for Grades Pre-Kindergarten through 6.

St. Peter Academy is confident in its ability to not only meet but exceed many of the important requirements in a plan that must be submitted to the state for review and approval. As an example of exceeding state standards, St Peter Academy has expanded the school nurse position, which is not a state requirement, to a year-round 5 day a week position. We also anticipate, because of our intentional small class sizes, that we will **serve every student, every day, in school**, without the need to rotate students in and out of the building on separate days.

EEC will commence accepting plans at the beginning of next week. Upon state approval, St Peter Academy will be granted clearance to reopen in a planned phased approach – Toddler Program, Summer Program, Full Programming to commence in September. We anticipate approval for phases I & II in a timely fashion and will commence staff trainings and family information sessions during the approval processes time frames. Our target opening dates are predicated on state approval which we estimate will be processed between June 22nd and June 29th.

As we continue to prepare for reopening, we wish to relay some more staffing additions and changes that will be taking place. We are thrilled to announce that Mrs. Katherine Lee, our Grade K1 teacher, will be moving to Grade K2 next year! Furthermore, as our community continues to grow, a second and third Pre-Kindergarten classrooms are being established. We will be posting all available school positions in the coming days and will activate the school's hiring committee to work their magic to provide candidates that ascribe to the school's mission, value system, and their desire to nurture and educate the whole child.

Undoubtedly, there is much to celebrate as we continue to welcome our students and families back very soon. Please rest assured that additional updates will be provided to you as soon as new information is available.

Sincerely,

Francis Galligan, Ed.M.
Principal, St. Peter Academy

Maryann Crush
President, St. Peter Academy Board

Character and Courage