

Information Regarding Return to School

Dear Pike Family,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying some family time in preparation for the New Year.

After serious consideration and discussion with local healthcare providers and our Foundation Board leadership, **we have decided to push back the start date for our 2nd semester from this Monday Jan 4 to next Monday, Jan 11.**

As you are likely aware, ADPH is reporting our local cases are higher than ever and there is an expected surge to come from holiday travel and gatherings. Our intent with having students stay at home for an additional week is to give an extra window of time for any COVID-19 symptoms time to develop at home rather than returning to school and exposing a classroom. This also allows time for families to get tested and receive test results, which will be delayed due to the holiday.

We understand this will be a serious inconvenience for families that will have to find childcare, yet weighed with the risk of compromising our faculty, our students exposing their families and the threat of quarantining classes or the campus altogether, we made the difficult but important decision to prioritize the health and safety of our campus community and our Pike family.

Some answers to questions you likely have:

- this will not affect our current school calendar and events such as the deer hunt, JV and varsity basketball games / practices, holidays, spring break, graduation, etc. are not planned to change. Pee wee games and practices will be postponed.

- this an extension of winter break and there will not be any distance learning during this extra week.

- **we kindly ask that our families and faculty report household exposure and/or current positive cases** by emailing nurses@pikelib.com so our school nurses can help determine quarantine dates and any potential exposure to other students and/or faculty members.

- **we strongly encourage our families and faculty to use good judgement and practice social distancing during this extra week.** The intent is to avoid illness and / or allow any pending illness to develop so that treatment and quarantine can start at home.

I hope you will consider this is a responsible decision that will hopefully give us a stronger and safer start to our 2nd semester and keep us on campus for classroom learning as long as possible.

Patriots Together,

Eric Burkett
Head of School