



**International
School**
Los Angeles
**Lycée
International**

From: LILA Head of School
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 4:00 PM
Subject: A look ahead at the 2020-2021 school year

Dear LILA Community,

The joy of face-to-face human connection was back in full force at LILA this week as we celebrated the graduation ceremonies of our seniors and 5th graders with cool drive-through parades across our 5 campuses. How wonderful to “see” everyone again!

The last few months have called on us as a school community to show incredible resilience and flexibility. I thank all members of our community for your solidarity. Our community-mindedness has been thrown into sharp relief over the last couple of weeks in particular. I would like once again to thank everyone for your unified engagement in our two community e-gatherings on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Our work in this area is of paramount importance; LILA is committed to growing in this space.

As the school year draws to a close, American society is reopening. Indeed, on Friday last, the California Department of Public Health issued advice to schools about reopening in the fall. This bodes well and provides a much-needed sense of optimism that we share about the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you to the 650 parents who responded to our recent survey whose aim was to get a sense of your views and feelings about reopening LILA across all our sites. Overwhelmingly, your responses underscored your deep concern for your child(ren)’s emotional and social well-being. We share this concern. Other key findings from the survey include:

- 60% of you are either very comfortable or comfortable to send your child(ren) back to school in the fall while 26% expressed reservations in doing so.
- 75% of you indicated that you would send your child(ren) back in the fall without a COVID-19 vaccine being available.
- The majority of you indicated that, provided the school implements necessary health precautions, you would entrust us to navigate a COVID-19 event within the community.
- Resoundingly, your responses highlighted the desire to see your child(ren) back at school!

Campuses
Burbank
Los Feliz
Orange County
Pasadena
West Valley

The School Leadership Team has been busy working, in partnership with the local health authorities and both the National and California Associations of Independent Schools, on various scenarios which might characterize our return in the fall:

Scenario 1: A near-normal return

We would welcome all students back in person, with appropriate health measures.

Scenario 2: A hybrid return

This would be characterized by reduced campus attendance on any given day, owing to more stringent physical distancing requirements. Under this scenario, approximately 80% of our overall student population could be on campus on any given day, necessitating some students/classes/grades to be in remote e-Learning mode for part of the week. If this model – touted by many experts as the most likely – goes ahead, we at LILA have decided to prioritize certain grades for 100%, 5 day-per-week attendance: Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten on ALL our elementary campuses; and Grades 9 – 12 at Burbank. The actual grade attendance model on each campus, beyond these baseline assumptions, will depend on the campus in question, and would be communicated by your campus director.

Scenario 3: A return to remote e-Learning

This scenario would only be deployed if an absolute requirement by health authorities, as has been the case for the last 3 months.

Scenario 4: Zig-Zag

Just depending on the advent of subsequent waves of COVID-19, some national experts have predicted that schools may have to “zig-zag” between in-person learning and remote e-Learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Some general assumptions about reopening:

- The school will not host large community events such as assemblies and adult gatherings
- Parental access to campuses will be limited
- We will adhere to Human Resource requirements for our at-risk employees
- There will be NO field trips for the 2020 **calendar** year
- After-school activities will not resume except for Burbank clubs, which will take place online.

Currently under review:

- Elementary Daycare and Study Hall
- The Athletics Program
- Buses between campuses, depending on physical distancing requirements.

I appreciate the great appetite for clarity in our community. The above is as much as can wisely and reliably be communicated at this time. We are still many weeks away from Wednesday, August 26, when school resumes for the 2020-2021 school year. A lot can happen between now and then.

You can expect an update from me **no later than Friday, July 17**, by which time I hope to be in a position to provide you with greater detail and planning relating to the scenario that will apply.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very restful summer, and offer the encouragement of our sincerest desire to welcome all our students back in August.

Very best wishes to all at LILA,

Michael Maniska
Head of School