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December 2, 2020

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community;

With so much in the news regarding COVID-19 testing in schools, I want to give you an update.

Although schools' ability to reopen with in-person instruction has been widely discussed in the news, there has still been no written guidance or direction shared with schools on how this will actually work. All of the testing requirements that I have shared with you over the past weeks are still in effect until we receive the official new guidance from the state. We are hoping that this arrives by the end of this week.

We are making progress with securing our COVID-19 testing license. This has been held up due to liability and insurance matters with our Medical Officer. Last evening, we received word that these concerns are being addressed and are now looking into the costs associated with administering the tests here on campus. Once this is completed, our next steps will be ordering the tests, making arrangements to return to in-person instruction and begin testing. I will keep you informed and plan on providing you another update early next week.

As our return to in-person instruction appears to be on the horizon, I think that it is important to take a look back. We did have 14 positive COVID cases reported of individuals who were here on campus. I am pleased to be able to report that none of these cases were identified as a transmission of the virus here in school. Contact tracers were able to identify that these persons had contracted the virus while outside of school. The data has demonstrated schools are one of the safest places for children and adults to be. Our reopening plan, mitigation strategies and our school-community partnership have proven effective. This understanding, along with the recommendations from health and education officials from around the world who recognize the vital importance of having students in school, is giving us this opportunity to bring our students back. We will continue to follow all health and safety recommendations, guidance and our reopening plan to ensure that Cleveland Hill's schools will be as safe a place as possible.

I hope to see many of you back on campus sooner rather than later. Thank you again for your patience, understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jon MacSwan
Superintendent