



Monday, March 22nd, 2021

Dear Excel Academy High School Families,

As you saw in a reopening email that our CEO Owen Stearns shared earlier this week, we have rolled out a high-level plan for reopening in-person learning for our students. This plan seeks to balance the needs of our community and provide a rigorous academic education for families who want their children to return to the building and for families who want to continue with remote learning through the spring. I am writing to follow up on that email with some more detailed information about reopening this school year.

The High School will bring back students in two groups, detailed below. All students will be given the option to continue the school year remotely, if that is their family's preference.

**March 30: Approximately 40 students return to the building.**

Beginning March 30th approximately 40 students will be invited to return to the building and continue the computer-based learning model in-person. Students attend school in person, where they engage in their classes via Zoom from the school. They are monitored by a teacher, who can assist them in their online work. They also experience some of the social aspects of school. Due to the limited capacity of the initial phase, students will be selected based on a set of criteria that identifies those students most at-risk who could most benefit from being in the building. **Our staff will have contacted you by March 24 if your child has been selected to participate in in-person computer-based learning.**

**Around May 17: Expanded In-Person Learning**

The goal of this program is to maintain the targeted support to students who are struggling the most with remote learning and offer optional in-person activities (such as labs, discussions, or athletic activities) before and after classes. Students will continue to participate in their online classes during school hours.

Thank you for your generosity and support in these difficult times.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N Keough".

Nina Keough  
Head of School



## FAQs:

- How will I know if my child qualifies for in-person schooling?
  - We will contact you to invite your child.
- What safety measures are/will be in place?
  - All staff and students will be required to wear masks. Students and staff who forget a mask will be given one to wear.
  - Students will socially distance as recommended by the CDC, both in the classroom and in other school spaces.
  - We will provide routine COVID testing to staff and students
  - We have upgraded our HVAC systems where needed to meet the highest circulation requirements.
  - Meal and bathroom times will be staggered to support social distancing
  - We will create pods of students to reduce transmission risks
  - In the event of a positive test, we will conduct contact tracing
  - We will encourage hand sanitation
  - We have increased our cleaning of each building
  - Our staff have already begun being vaccinated; by May 17 we expect that all staff will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated
- Will students ever remove their masks indoors?
  - Yes. While we will limit students removing masks, students will remove masks to eat lunch and for mask breaks. When students remove their masks, they will be seated and remain at least 6 ft from other students.
- Will my child have the same teacher they have had all year?
  - In most cases, yes. Students will mostly have the same teachers they currently have for Zoom classes. However, a different staff member may be facilitating your child's in-person computer-based learning.