



July 9, 2020

Dear St. Andrew's Community,

As the leaders of the 14 schools in Louisiana accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest, we have been collaborating with one another this summer to design effective policies and procedures to safely welcome back students to our campuses this fall and to proceed with a rewarding school year. Such mutual support and cooperation is and has been a hallmark of the ISAS and has been especially helpful in the midst of this challenging time. Large or small, urban or more rural, the schools of the ISAS in Louisiana are committed to working together for the best interests of all the children and families we have the honor to serve,

With the guidance of the Department of Health and state medical advisors, each Louisiana ISAS school will be implementing similar protocols to provide safe campuses in response to COVID-19. These protocols include but are not limited to:

- Limited access to campus buildings by non-essential personnel.
- Health screening and symptom monitoring procedures for those who are coming to campus
- Face covering protocols
- Social distancing and grouping students into cohorts where practicable to contain exposure
- Policies of quarantining for those diagnosed with COVID-19 as well as for those who have been deemed exposed to such individuals.

What is clear is that this pandemic is going to be affecting our school communities for some time. Although these steps will limit the spread of the virus, there is no guarantee they will exclude all asymptomatic carriers. Those who elect to have their children rejoin our school communities understand and accept that there is likely to be some spread of the infection. The Louisiana ISAS schools stand with the American Academy of Pediatrics that stated in its recently released (June 25) [COVID-19: Guidance for School Reentry](#):

- School policies must be flexible and nimble in responding to new information,
- Policies should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for child and adolescent's developmental stage.
- All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.

It is important to emphasize that everyone's actions affect an entire community; thus, it is the responsibility of ISAS schools—and their constituents—to lead by example, embrace



accountability, and implement best practice guidelines for the welfare of our students and our state. This requires institutional and personal attention and sacrifice for the good of all. Public mask-wearing, conscientious social distancing, and the limiting of group interaction are necessary steps to control the spread of COVID-19 and increase the chances that we can continue to offer meaningful, in-person educational experiences that ISAS schools are known for. Your understanding and cooperation are most appreciated.

We will continue to collaborate and adjust to serve our communities, care for our families, and help our students grow and thrive. We are grateful for your trust and support and look forward to a great year together despite the unusual circumstances.

Thank you,

Yvonne Adler, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau

Kevin Avin, Stuart Hall School for Boys, New Orleans

Paul Baker, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Lafayette & Broussard

Bill Bridges, Alexandria Country Day School

Ian Craig, Metairie Park country Day School, Metairie

Kim Field-Marvin, Louise S. McGehee School, New Orleans

Kathryn Fitzpatrick, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, New Orleans

Sr. Melanie Guste, Academy of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans

Joe Kreutziger, St. George's Episcopal School, New Orleans

John Morvant, Christ Episcopal School, Covington

Charleen Schwank, St. Paul's Episcopal School, New Orleans

Merry Sorrells, St. Martin's Episcopal School, Metairie

Dale Smith, Isidore Newman School, New Orleans

Justin Smith, Southfield School, Shreveport

Gary Taylor, Trinity Episcopal School, New Orleans