



April 22, 2020

TRADITION.
INNOVATION.
EXCELLENCE.

Dear Alpha Families,

As I mentioned in my recorded announcement, we at Alpha are working hard to support our students as they complete this school year. We are also preparing for the next school year. I have heard from all of you through our survey, emails, and phone calls and so I wanted to take the opportunity to answer some questions and also update you on some decisions I have made moving forward.

The 2020-2021 School Year:

Providence Heights Alpha School is committed to reopening for the start of the 2020-21 academic school year on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. However, the final decision as to how the new school year will look whether in person or remotely lies solely with the PA Department of Education and Governor Wolf.

Throughout the closure, we have continued to recruit and enroll new students for next school year. I am excited to share that this week our Admissions Office began the new family orientation process remotely. Once these orientations are complete, Mrs. Hartman will be reaching out for volunteers to connect with our new families. I know that you will make them feel welcome, even from afar.

Tuition Payment/Lunch Refunds/Activity Refunds:

Our tuition payments for the 2020-2021 school year will begin in May as scheduled. I fully understand the unique and uncertain situation in which we find ourselves. If your family needs to discuss alternative payment plans, please reach out to me.

The 2019-2020 lunch plan balances for the remainder of this school year will be calculated and credited to the next school year. Should you prefer that this balance be issued as a refund instead, please contact the business office **no later than April 30**.

Any activity fees paid for the 4th quarter will also be credited for the Fall.

APTA and AAA Events

All APTA and athletic events have been canceled. Full refunds will be given for the Father-Daughter Dance and all Spring sport registration fees.

The Spring Musical and the Alpha Art Show

Sadly, we have made the decision to cancel the spring musical. While I have listened to some very creative ideas about how to produce something remotely, I have also taken into consideration the many tasks our teachers, students and families as a whole are facing at this time. Our directors will be reaching out to you and partial refunds will be issued. Please understand that full refunds will not be provided as our teachers were paid for the rehearsal time and preparations already completed before the closure.

Our 2019-20 Alpha Art Show will be presented online. Mrs. Brown-Clair and Mrs. Seiff have been collaborating to design an alternative, celebrating our student's hard work and creativity. We look forward to continuing this great tradition in a new and innovative way. Rest assured that our traditional Art Show will return next year.

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Remote Learning and Curriculum Adjustments

The very foundation of how we teach at the Alpha School is to differentiate, individualize, diversify, and investigate with hands-on applications. If there is one thing we have all learned during this journey, is that it is a challenge to recreate the connections and all of those everyday experiences our children enjoy in live classrooms with our talented teachers remotely. That being said, I am proud of all the hard work and creativity of our teachers, who have worked tirelessly to re-write their lesson plans, to re-create student experiences, to understand the many tools being offered as options, to solve these problems for multiple ages and grade levels, and all while being isolated in their own homes.

Please know I have listened to all of you and I thank you for the candid feedback. I also understand that you are all facing different circumstances and struggles in your households as your careers are demanding more, your children and your own parents need you more, and so very many of you are medical or critical services providers and are going out into the battle every day.

As an educator and the principal, it is my job to choose the path which best serves us all, but most importantly serves the needs of our students. When we created our initial remote learning plans, we designed a model for a two to three week period to keep us on track for return. Now that the Commonwealth has closed all schools for the remainder of this school year, I have worked closely with my staff to make adjustments to create a remote learning plan that will extend through the end of the 2019-20 school year. I will be sharing these plans with you shortly.

For now, I will ask for your continued patience, trust, prayers, and understanding. Please know I hear all of you and I remain committed to supporting our students academically while being sensitive to protecting the delicate balance each of us are trying to manage in our homes. The most important thing is we all remain healthy. I promise you that as your students work through the coming weeks, their teachers will continue to ensure that they have everything they need to thrive both now and in the future. This is always the Alpha promise.

You are in my prayers.

Be Safe! Be Provident! Be Positive!

Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His Hand!

Peggy Ruefle, M.Ed., M.S.
Principal