

Parent Communication - July 9 | Reopening in the Fall

Dear Families,

All of us at Porter-Gaud are looking forward to returning to campus and reuniting as Cyclones. We are also excited for our new students and families to meet our exceptional faculty, make new friends, and become part of our cherished community.

We recognize the current COVID-19 numbers are concerning today, but we remain optimistic. Our Reopening Task Force has created strategic operating models and scenarios for us to return to school safely. In our plans, we have given great consideration to our students' needs based on wellness, age, development, executive-functioning skills, as well as considering our families' challenges with balancing work, school, and life.

Health & Safety Values and Our Partnership

Porter-Gaud recognizes that campus will look different this academic year. The health, well-being, and safety of our students and their families, as well as our faculty/staff and their families comes first, so we will be implementing enhanced health and safety protocols and practices. We will take great care in orienting students to campus life and our new health and safety procedures when we return to campus. **Our success and the ability to remain on campus depends on the collaboration, transparency, and trust of our entire Porter-Gaud community.**

First Days of School

We plan to hold the first day of in-person classes on August 18. We are closely monitoring the widespread community transmission of COVID-19 in the Charleston area to inform under which operating mode we will open. Based on current conditions, we would likely adopt a phased approach in bringing groups of students back to campus during the week of August 18.

Four Operating Modes

There are many unknowns ahead, so flexibility and agility are paramount. We recognize that plans will evolve and modifications will be made as we navigate this together. We will have ups and downs, but we will all be working to ensure the best experience for your child and your family.

As we shared with you in June, we have four different operating modes that are possible during the '20-'21 school year. We are prepared to move fluidly from one operating mode to another as necessary while preserving the integrity, continuity, and excellence of our academic programs. **We have attached charts of operating modes per division and they are also available on the [Reopening in the Fall landing page](#).**

- **Blue** - A mode in which the school cautiously proceeds with many aspects of normal school operation while limiting some activities due to their elevated risk to the health and safety of our community.
- **Yellow** - This mode employs multiple physical distancing strategies to limit transmission risks by increasing physical space between students and limiting interactions in large group settings.
- **Orange** - This mode reduces the total number of people who can be on campus or a portion of the campus at any time to maximize physical distancing and minimize the mixing of student groups.
- **Red** - This mode requires us to close the campus or a portion of the campus to students. The virtual learning plan is implemented for those students. This may have to be implemented in short stints by division or whole campus in the event of a positive case or increased community spread (DHEC). We might have to implement this longer if required by governmental authorities.

While our priority is to be on campus as much as possible, we are also preparing for potential interruptions and may need to adjust the school calendar accordingly. As always, we will work closely with our families to communicate more information when and if needed.

Staying Informed with Latest School Information

Our communication with you will be proactive, transparent, and timely throughout the summer and school year. [The Reopening in the Fall landing page](#) is your most up-to-date and current source of information. We have done our best to provide initial answers to some of the larger questions we are hearing from families in the [Frequently Asked Questions section](#), but we know you will have more questions, so please share them with us at PGReopen2020@portergaud.edu. You can also expect the following communications from us over the next two weeks:

- Weekly Update and Additional Parent FAQs on Thursday, July 16
- Parent Q&A with Division Leadership Teams and Head of School via Zoom during the week of July 20-24
- Parent Partnership 2020-21 Brochure (Great resource for new families!), August 1

The strength and grace of our PG community are among our greatest assets. We are confident our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and families will work together and support one another as we step into this new educational landscape. We are here for you and we are grateful for your partnership. Go Cyclones!

See you in August,

D. DuBose Egleston Jr., Head of School
The PG Reopening Task Force