



Sturgis Charter Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School



February 25, 2021

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Dear Sturgis Families,

It has been nearly a year since I first wrote to you with regards to the pandemic. Since then, I have been struck by your goodwill, patience, and understanding, as well as by the extraordinary efforts and commitment of our faculty and staff. More so than any prior year, this school year has required the most of each of us. Thank you for your exceptional perseverance.

Planning for the future in a pandemic is challenging but essential. In order for Sturgis to begin mapping out the eventual return of students with greater regularity into our school buildings, we have created a new task force comprised of faculty and staff (similar to what we did over the summer). The task force will examine DESE, DPH, and CDC guidelines, as well as audit Sturgis' unique constraints, and will be surveying parents, students, and faculty/staff in the coming weeks to help inform the task force's work.

We are hoping to be able to offer more time in-school to our students during the fourth quarter. However, we do not yet know whether that can be the case. I will keep everyone informed of the task force's findings. Please know that no matter what our design, parents have the right during the 2020-2021 school year to have their child learn solely from home. That does not change even if our model is tweaked.

Many seniors and their caregivers might be wondering about IB exams and senior activities. Please know that we are actively attending to both of these areas. I hope to have resolution from the International Baccalaureate Organization to share with you in the coming weeks about our approach with IB assessments. We have East and West task forces focusing on how we can provide our seniors with the best possible late spring celebrations, including graduation. As soon as we have certainty, we will share details with you.

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Finally, we are also strategizing how to properly and fairly handle the administration of MCAS exams this year, which have not been waived by the government as they were last school year. Again, please trust that we will attempt to do all in our power to make sure this is handled with care and consideration for all.

If I am being honest, I know that I write to you today with many uncertainties. Thank you for continuing to demonstrate and extend goodwill, patience, and understanding as we strive to do right by our students with all of these decisions.

Sincerely,

Paul Marble
Executive Director