

November 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have all gone through so much since last spring. Words cannot express the many challenges and changes that we have faced together. We continue to work together to meet the demands of this time. Facing a global pandemic together takes courage and commitment. We at Head Start remain committed to bringing you and your children the very best comprehensive services possible at such a time. We all want to see our children in school and for things to return to normal. We can see a time in the future when that will happen. For now, we must adjust to this new reality as best we can by joining our hands and hearts, knowing and trusting that we are all doing the best we can.

We continue to monitor the number of cases in our county and how that fits in with the Governor's metrics. We have concluded that as of right now, we can project a soft start on Tuesday, December 8th. Many families want to continue with our virtual model and we will be making sure to accommodate those families. Please do not worry if you do not want your child in person at this time. We have heard the many reasons for this and respect your decision. For those of you who want to start in classroom, we also respect that decision.

We have many new state and federal rules that we will need to follow in order to allow children back into our classrooms, so this year will look different at each stage of reopening. We will have very small class sizes so that we can help the children be successful when learning the new classroom structure. We will have different drop off and pick-ups and will share that with you and your child this month in the form of a video, which your teacher will provide you. Children will need to wear face coverings or face shields to protect them and others. You will choose. We will plan a hybrid model with two days in class and two days virtual/or with learning packets. Children have been away, or have never gone to school, so they will need time to adjust. This starting model will help with that. We follow all guidance from CDC, the state and federal guidelines.

We know that you have many questions, and we will do our best to answer them. Please be patient with our changes and our responses. We are committed to safety and to excellence in education and comprehensive services for you and your child. There will be more information coming. In the meantime, please practice all the safety measures recommended by public health and the CDC. If we all do that, we will stay healthy and keep our schools open.

Thank you.

Dr. Suzanne Miller, Director
Andrea Lengel, Program and Education Manager
All Head Start Teachers and staff