



Dear Westminster Families,

I am excited that school begins in a few short weeks. It will be great to see your children again. Your back to school packet will be mailed to you tomorrow, and it contains a lot of helpful information. In addition to the usual forms and the parent handbook, you will also find a Covid-19 addendum that explains particulars for each division.

I can't tell you what scenario we will be in on the first day of school, but if we were starting school today, we would be in Scenario IIA. That means temperature checks upon entering the building, mask wearing when inside, social distancing, and physical separation into grade level pods with grade level teachers. I'll remind you, however, that on June 15, the Oklahoman reported 186 new Covid-19 cases and no new deaths. Four weeks later, there were 993 new positive cases and four new deaths in Oklahoma. Four weeks from now when we start school on August 10, who knows what the numbers will be. What we do know is that we will continue to monitor the situation, seek the advice of experts, and make the best decisions we can for educating your children.

In the Harvard T.H. Chan report, "Schools for Health: Risk Reduction Strategies for Reopening Schools," the authors write on page six: "There is no such thing as 'zero risk...' There is no perfect plan to reopen schools safely... There is no 'one size fits all' strategy... Compliance will be imperfect... Learning will be different... There will be disruption." We want your children with us at Westminster this year, and I know you want that, too. Hopefully, after reviewing the packet, I'll be able to see your children when we reopen at Westminster School next month.

Sincerely,

Bob Vernon