



September 4, 2020: A Friday Update

Dear CDS Community,

This week has given us a challenge and an opportunity: the challenge of how smoky air impacts our ability to use our beautiful yard and the opportunity to refine and articulate all of our policies as we prepare our waiver application so students can return to school.

In the Coop, we shared our likely path as we prepare for many of our students to return to in-person learning. We are anticipating that Kindergarten will be able to return in some format around the end of September, with the lower school grades able to return the week of October 19. For middle school, we had been working on a plan for fifth and sixth grades as part of the waiver.

Just today, we are aware that this is changing and it is looking like the waiver application is going to serve as the newly required plan “on file” with the Department of Public Health for reopening of all grades K-8. We are still expecting that the timing for our return to in-person learning will be on October 19 to allow for the transition and for the consolidation of the first six weeks of learning.

It is likely that when we return, the middle school will be on a hybrid schedule combining in-person and online time. To help us best plan for our return, we have sent out a survey asking families to let us know if they plan to return to in-person school. We know that there are many questions about how things will look, so feel free to share those in the survey and we will answer them in a communication next week. We are aware that a number of families from various grades would like to continue learning at home even after in-person learning resumes, and we will take this into account as we develop our learning strategies.

In assembly this morning, I shared my observations about how I am seeing folks move through the world. I notice that the bubbles we have had to physically keep may be impacting our ability to see what those around us need. Instead of picturing a field of bubbles, I am visualizing us all as being on paths that intersect like the lines on a

mandala – we are moving in different directions, at different times, and at different paces, but we are intersecting and we have the opportunity to choose kindness and gratitude as we support one another even at a distance. I recorded myself reading the book *Wonder*, and part of why that book resonates with me is the simple mantra of choosing kindness. This weekend, let's all look for ways we can be kind to ourselves and to those around us, even the people who challenge us. How can gratitude and kindness drive our interactions this weekend, even at a distance?

Warmly,
Shelly