



September 7, 2020

To the Princeton Day School Community,

Happy Labor Day! I imagine you may be spending this beautiful, late-summer day wondering where the summer has gone and anticipating the start of the school year. As much as I wish summer could linger just a bit more, I am ready to get going, as a six-month absence from our school has served to remind us all how much we enjoy one another's company. We will be together soon.

Still, before we gather, I wanted to share a few thoughts about the coming year and, especially, the responsibilities we all carry to keep ourselves and our school safe and healthy. Scores of my Princeton Day School colleagues have spent thousands of hours preparing our school and readying protocols and processes to keep us all well. When the doors swing open on Wednesday morning, it is important that you understand and follow rigorously the clear directives of this new school year, for our coming together is, at its core, a resounding step forward for our community.

While all of us will enjoy the benefits of the school year, any one of us can jeopardize them. By returning to school, each of us makes a promise to care for ourselves and our community, at school, at home, and about town. In that spirit, I offer these thoughts:

- Honor the Panther Pledge, our commitment to one another to keep school safe.

- Use the Magnus app each day. It is your ticket to school. You cannot enter without it.
- Wear a mask, and wash your hands. These two simple steps will yield big results.
- Follow the arrows and signs: the hallways have been marked for traffic, and I expect that everyone will obey those signs.
- If the opportunity presents itself, head outside and enjoy the fresh air. It is a sure way to stay safe.
- If you feel sick, stay home. A day away from school may be just the thing to keep us all safe.
- For parents, the school is now just a drop-off zone: no lingering, walking, jogging, dog-walking, carpool-gathering. Say goodbye to your child and be on your way.
- For students, good habits begin at home, extend through the school day, and continue at night and on the weekends. Make only smart choices, and you will be rewarded with uninterrupted days at school.

These are simple, easy-to-follow rules. They are not to be trivialized, ignored, or modified. Doing so will jeopardize the safety of our community and lead to a quick exit for those who cannot heed these guidelines:

- Students who violate these in-school rules will be moved immediately to remote learning for a month.
- Students who come to our attention for behavior away from school that violates these rules will be moved immediately to remote learning for a month.

I understand our new way of doing business will take some getting used to. We will learn together from both our successes and our mistakes. My desire here is to appeal to the better nature of all members of our community, and to our desire and inclination to do the right things for the right reasons. We begin this grand effort with great expectations, assured that our success will give us the thing we crave most: the uninterrupted return to the school we love. However, having listened to one college

president after another announce the shuttering of an institution because of the poor judgement and poorer actions of community members, we all know what can happen. We do not want to be one of those stories. We have all been forewarned. The opportunity for us to shine awaits us. Let's use it to our advantage.

Thank you for reading through this late-summer note and committing to the safe operation of our school. I know we can do this. As I can be of help along the way, I will be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PJS', followed by a horizontal line.

Paul J. Stellato

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