



November 11, 2020

To the Princeton Day School Community,

As we begin parent/teacher conferences and look forward to the Thanksgiving break, I want to share a decision I have made about student participation in organized, indoor, off-campus activities.

Now in our 10th week of on-campus instruction, we have reason to be proud of the continued, safe operation of our school, as each day students, faculty, and staff follow the protocols and practices we put in place at the opening of the school year. And yet, we anticipate a long winter ahead of us. While the number of COVID-positive cases on our campus has remained low, the impact of those cases is being felt across the school. For every COVID-positive case, there are many more close contacts who are required to quarantine, altering the experience of students and faculty in all three divisions. We also know that all of our COVID-positive cases to date—and the quarantines that have followed—are tied to off-campus activities. **To address this trend, Princeton Day School will require the following students to move to remote learning from November 16 through December 18:**

- Students in all divisions who participate in **organized indoor, off-campus athletic activities**. This **includes** all athletic activities involving two or more students regardless of whether the students and instructors wear masks. Activities that require physical exertion, such as dance and gymnastics, fall into this category.
- Students who participate in any **other group, indoor, off-campus activities** where they are in close contact (no mask, within six or fewer feet for 15 or more minutes). Examples of these activities include, but are not

limited to, academic classes, group music lessons, chess clubs and religious classes.

If students choose to suspend or end participation in off-campus activities, they are welcome to return to campus. **Whether they are remote or on-campus, all Upper School students who wish to participate in PDS winter athletics may do so.**

Our on-campus health and safety precautions are working, as faculty, staff, and students in all three divisions are enjoying the benefits of being on campus. Still, the safety precautions of off-campus organizations are not ours to create or enforce, although their consequences are ours to address. I know this step will reduce the risk to all Princeton Day School faculty, staff, and students and help to ensure the continued operation of the School. I will reassess the decision outlined here as we move into the new year and modify our approach if conditions in New Jersey require us to do so.

**If your child continues to participate in the activities described above and needs to move to remote learning, please email [PDsreopens@pds.org](mailto:PDsreopens@pds.org) by Monday, November 16.** As you have questions or suggestions about the information in this letter, please be in touch with your child's division head, Director of Athletics and Physical Education Katie Fay, or me.

While I write this letter, news is breaking about a COVID-19 vaccine, even as Governor Murphy sets in place new guidelines and restrictions for our state. This weekend alone, New Jersey saw a significant rise in new COVID-19 cases. Hopeful as we may be for the arrival of a vaccine, we will do all we can to protect our school community. As I have been able to do with the Panther Pledge, I know I can rely on our partnership to implement this important safety protocol.

Sincerely,

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

Paul J. Stellato