

November 11, 2020

Dear Atholton Family,

As Thanksgiving draws near, we can be grateful for God's goodness to our school. We have been able to meet on campus for almost half a year. During the past few weeks, however, we saw the positivity rate and the R0 factor rising at a fast rate. In addition, as of this week, Maryland's COVID-19 Dashboard shows a steady rise in cases. Currently Maryland is at 5.9% positivity rate. Howard County is at 4.65%. We have been advised to be more cautious during the holiday season due to the increase in travel and social interaction that happens, and we hope to continue our blended learning (hybrid) up to Thanksgiving break.

In order to safeguard our community given the current trends, we have made the difficult decision to go back to our online model after Thanksgiving break and remain there through January 18. PreK would remain open dependent on the Governor's mandates. We plan to resume our blended scenario on January 19 if the metrics in Maryland allows us to do so at that time. We would like to offer 4 days of in-person learning for grades PreK, K, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10. Grades 1, 6, and 8 will only be 2 days due to the higher student number per class. The schedule will be as follows:

January 19 – Students return and follow the A/B schedule that we had at the end of 2020.

January 25 – Grades 7, 9, 10 – Begin on campus Monday - Thursday

January 30 – Grades 2, 4, and 5 – Begin on campus Monday - Thursday

We will require that you are home during the two weeks prior to the return to campus or that you plan to stay online until you have had two weeks at home before being on campus.

Also, some of you may be more comfortable having your child stay home this next week due to the rise in cases. Please make sure to notify your child's teacher and the office if you plan to switch to distance learning for now.

In His service together,

Miya Kim
Principal