

November 6, 2020

Dear Atholton Family,

[Governor Hogan spoke](#) on Thursday afternoon about the cases of COVID-19 rising in Maryland. I recommend watching it if you have not already (mild language warning). As we see the positivity rate rising, we want to continue to be especially vigilant in following our protocols at school and outside of the school in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. I believe one of the reasons we have been able to operate this year with students on campus is because of the solid and consistent teamwork of our staff and our families. You have been faithful in:



1. Daily health screenings.
2. Proper mask usage (Please continue to check to make sure the masks fit well. If your child's mask is not fitting securely over the nose and it is slipping down easily, your child will be given a disposable mask).
3. Taking precautions to keep any sick children home.
4. Instilling and reinforcing safe practices such as physically distancing.
5. Engaging in behavior and actions that minimize unnecessary exposure.

We have special holidays approaching. [The CDC put out helpful guidelines for the holidays](#) for all of us to consider. Adhering to the guidelines that have been established by [the Maryland State Department of Education](#) in regards to travel and how we handle the holidays will be critical in our ability to remain open safely. [Use this link to view the slides from yesterday's press conference.](#)



With Appreciation – The Senior Ministries from the church has partnered with one of their Sabbath schools to provide a healthy and delicious treat for staff each Thursday this quarter. We have appreciated the warm support of our church, and this is another instance of a tangible and thoughtful encouragement.

Re-Evaluation – In this quarter, we will continue to re-evaluate

the various components of our learning models to make adjustments as needed. One area that we are evaluating carefully is the feasibility of offering 4 days of on-campus learning vs. 2 days a week. Our teachers strongly desire to have our students on campus every day of the week if possible. There are many factors to consider, including physical spacing, equitably meeting needs for both distance and on-campus learners, current staffing logistics, and several other considerations. Each situation is a bit different. For example, our PreK students have been able to be on campus from the beginning for all 4 days because of the smaller size of the class and play-based learning. They are the only grade with no distance learning component available. We could not offer 4 days of on-campus learning for a few grades (like our 6th and 8th) because the size of the total students would not allow adequate spacing. Even as we re-evaluate, we do have to consider the individual classes and needs. If we offer 4 days, that change will begin in January, dependent on the metrics at that time. We will inform you of any changes in December before our winter break. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.



Fundraisers- There are great projects that need help raising funds. Candy Iverson will be sending detailed information about these exciting ways you can help. Several of them don't require you to make additional purchases. Please feel free to share the information with friends and families.



Parent/Teacher Conferences – Thank you for taking time to meet with the teachers. We did forget to give you a deadline for making appointments. Our apologies if this created problems for you. One of the highlights of our conferences is being able to listen to each other as we strive to partner with you in educating your child.



Are you handy? – The school has some light maintenance needs. If you are handy and would love to volunteer a few hours to fix a few minor items at school, we would greatly appreciate it. Just contact the office if you are interested.

Do you have a good eye? – If you would like to help the yearbook staff by sorting and identifying the best pictures for use in the yearbook, please contact the office. This task will save the yearbook staff valuable time as they put it together.



Final Thoughts – Have you been able to join in our student led chapels? If you haven't had an opportunity to enjoy them, I encourage you to make some time to be blessed in this experience. Over the last three weeks we have heard Gabbie Apola, Joshua Roberts, and Ola Tolbert share heart-felt personal testimonies, with vivid biblical examples to further illustrate our theme, *Making Us Brave*. Young people's expressions of how Jesus has worked in their lives remind us of the powerful transformation that Jesus can make in our youth. It gives us hope in the future. That same God who made young Daniel and his friends brave is at work in

the lives of our Atholton young people. This is what Christian education is all about, transforming lives by providing ways to build a life sustaining relationship with Christ. I'm very grateful to be in this field of work – seeing our young people choose Christ.

In His service together,

Miya Kim - Principal

[Making Me Brave – Student-led Chapel 1 of 4 -- Gabriella – October 22, 2020](#)



[Making Me Brave – Student-led Chapel 2 of 4 -- Josh – October 29, 2020](#)



[Making Me Brave – Student-led Chapel 3 of 4 -- Ola -- November 5, 2020](#)

