



St. Andrew's School

350 Noxontown Road
Middletown, DE 19709-1605

Daniel T. Roach, Jr.
Merrill M. Stenbeck Head of School

Dear Parents and Students of St. Andrew's,

I trust this important letter finds you and your families healthy and well.

I am pleased to share the news that St. Andrew's plans to return to a full residential community and on-campus program as we begin the [2020-2021 school year](#).

Ever since our transition to virtual teaching and learning last March, we have worked intensively to understand how we might return to community life on campus that inspires the learning, personal development, and leadership skills of our students. We know that living in community is essential to the intellectual, spiritual, and moral growth of our students; we know that the United States and the world need to cultivate leaders who will heal humanity's conflicts, division, pain, and suffering; we know that the St. Andrew's experience will give our students the grace and inspiration to live with confidence, purpose, hope, and generosity.

Our plan emerged and developed through the work of several task forces: we created a trustee/faculty working group, as well as faculty task forces focusing on health and wellness, academics, residential life, and student life. We are honored to work with Dr. Stephen Eppes, Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Christiana Care in Delaware. In addition, we have worked collaboratively with colleagues at peer schools, colleges, and universities.

Even as we announce our program and intention to return to campus, we must recognize that our plan depends on a number of factors beyond our control. We will follow and honor guidelines and regulations set by Governor John Carney, the [Delaware Department of Public Health](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), as they collectively study the movement, severity, and transmission rates of COVID-19.

As Head of School, I base all reopening decisions on the best work and recommendations of the medical and scientific community and on my dedication to the health and welfare of the St. Andrew's extended community and the community of which we are a part in Delaware.

As we learned last year, the pandemic requires us to be flexible, nimble, and intelligent in our response to changing conditions, threats, and regulations. We have designed a plan to gather the community together in September, but we will also be prepared to use other approaches designed to protect, sustain, and strengthen the pursuit of our distinctive mission if we cannot gather on campus.

Whatever the challenge or circumstance, we at St. Andrew's are dedicated to providing an exemplary educational experience and transformational community for our students.

All of the information outlined below, plus further details and answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the [2020-2021 School Year page](#) on the St. Andrew's website.

General Principles

The St. Andrew's plan depends on the shared creativity, sacrifices, and discipline of all members of the community. We believe we have already built an ethos and spirit uniquely prepared for the challenge necessary for a healthy and successful year on campus. Our small all-residential community; our 2200 acre campus; the trust among faculty, staff, and students; and our commitment to honoring the full humanity of our school and local community give us reason for faith and optimism.

Together, we will embrace these principles:

Living in a community during a pandemic calls upon all of us to live intentionally, patiently, and generously.

We will define, respect, and abide by **physical distancing regulations** as an ultimate expression of the reverence we have for all members of the community.

We will wear face masks at all times (except for time spent in dorm rooms with roommates, dining, during hygiene practices, and outdoors with adequate physical space), a commitment and discipline that protects the health of others in the community.

We will set and follow **comprehensive and intensive hygiene rituals** in all areas of the school. We will set, practice, and maintain the highest standards for daily cleaning and disinfecting on campus.

We will seek to significantly limit exposure to the residential community in a variety of ways: by making several school offices virtual, by virtually conducting college admissions representatives and admissions visits, by limiting student leaves, and by making Parents Weekend virtual.

Academics

Teaching and learning at St. Andrew's establishes the foundation and spirit of a community of intellectual passion, curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

During the 2020-2021 year, St. Andrew's will continue to use its two-semester academic calendar.

We plan a first semester with all students on campus up to Thanksgiving break. The semester will continue and ultimately conclude virtually in December.

We will return to our traditional number grade policy in both semesters; the III Form first semester will remain Pass/Fail.

The second semester schedule remains under study and will be finalized during the course of the fall.

We will maintain our daily schedule that features four 75-minute classes a day; we will allow for ample time for classroom/lab cleaning after every session.

We are carefully reviewing section sizes to ensure optimal physical distancing principles during class.

We will expand classrooms to include outdoor spaces and other new, spacious areas within the school.

The school will be flexible in our ability to provide virtual instruction to students who cannot be on campus because of travel restrictions or health issues.

During full virtual session in December, St. Andrew's will teach classes five days a week, deepening the teaching practices developed last spring. All virtual classes during December will be held synchronously. We will provide flexibility for asynchronous classes, if needed.

We may use Saturdays for classes both on campus as well as during virtual session.

Student Life

As the school returns to community session, St. Andrew's will develop a number of new approaches to student life, all designed to protect the health of the community:

- Large community gatherings such as student orientations, School Meetings, special programs, and Chapel services will be held virtually or designed for outdoor spaces.
- SAGE Dining Services will provide sequenced shifts for student breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We will use many outdoor spaces for dining during months of good weather and establish the Old Gym as a second servery and dining space with an outdoor tent.
- The school has taken steps to decrease dorm density in both the boys and girls' dorms.
- We will create cohorts or family units within dorms for safety, meetings, and recreation. These cohorts will also serve as the groups with whom our students will eat meals.
- We will ask students to remain on campus and not travel to town during the first semester of the year.
- We will ask students to limit off-campus weekends to only emergency family situations.
- We are in the process of studying fall athletics, along with other public and private schools in Delaware. If we do not have interscholastic athletic competitions, we will develop a great intramural program.

Health Services

The St. Andrew's Health Center has prepared carefully for the 2020-2021 year and its

many challenges. COVID-19 preparations include the following:

- Our COVID-19 testing plan for the community is as follows:
 - We will collect a specimen for SARS-CoV-2 PCR viral testing from each student upon arrival.
 - A second wave of testing all students will occur between days 7 and 10 on campus.
 - The need for ongoing testing of students and faculty (surveillance testing) will be determined.
 - Testing will always occur with any symptomatic student.
- Plans for quarantine and isolation care in the event of a positive COVID-19 case on campus include the following:
 - Temporary housing and dining arrangements.
 - Care algorithms.
 - Ability to continue learning virtually.
 - Overflow rooms will be available in case of any viral clusters that require isolation until test results are available.
 - We will offer specimen collection for SARS-CoV-2 PCR viral testing to be sent to a lab for those students presenting with signs or symptoms or a known close contact who is COVID-19 positive.
 - Any positive COVID-19 student will remain isolated until parent/guardian arrival.

Opening of School Procedures

Of course, one of the most important aspects of our plan involves the move in process for students. We have designed an approach that gives us the opportunity to begin the year with the community tested and healthy. Please click [here](#) to view the entire calendar for the fall semester, and see below for our Opening of School schedule.

2020-21 Opening of School Schedule

- Tuesday, September 1-Wednesday, September 2
 - Opening Faculty Meetings
- Thursday, September 3
 - Department Meetings
- Friday, September 4
 - Residential Meetings
- Sunday, September 6
 - **VI Form Girls Arrive**
- Monday, September 7
 - **VI Form Boys Arrive**
 - 8:00 PM—**International Families Orientation** (virtual)
- Tuesday, September 8-Wednesday, September 9
 - VI Form Leadership Program
- Thursday, September 10
 - **III Form Girls and New IV & V Form Boys Arrive**
- Friday, September 11

- **III Form Boys Arrive and New IV & V Form Girls Arrive**
- Saturday, September 12
 - III Form Orientation and New IV & V Form Orientation
- Sunday, September 13
 - Chapel
 - III Form Orientation and New IV & V Form Orientation
 - 8:00 PM—Virtual School Meeting (all students)
- Monday, September 14
 - **Classes Begin** (returning IV & V Form students virtual; new IV & V Form students in-person)
- Wednesday, September 16
 - 8:00 PM—Virtual Convocation Chapel (all students)
- Thursday September 17
 - **V Form Girls Arrive**
- Friday September 18
 - **V Form Boys Arrive**
- Sunday, September 20
 - 7:00 PM—Virtual Chapel
- Monday, September 21
 - **IV Form Boys Arrive**
- Tuesday, September 22
 - **IV Form Girls Arrive**

What To Do Before Arrival

1. **We ask our students to observe a strict 14-day quarantine before returning to campus.** Please follow [these guidelines](#) from the CDC and the Delaware Department of Public Health as you observe your quarantine. If you are traveling to St. Andrew's from overseas (regardless of your citizenship), you will need to quarantine off campus for 14 days **after** you arrive in the United States.
2. **We ask parents to arrange for a COVID-19 test for their child four or five days before your departure from home to return to St. Andrew's.** (You may get your COVID-19 test during your 14-day quarantine.) Please bring the digital or print results of your test with you when you return to campus. If you test positive for COVID-19 at this time, please do not come to campus for the Opening of School and please contact the Health Center (healthcenter@standrews-de.org) for next steps.
3. **We ask that all families who live 300 miles or more from St. Andrew's designate a family member, guardian, or family friend** who could arrive on campus within two to three hours in case your child is ill or has to observe a quarantine period. Please email your contact to covid19@standrews-de.org. We will work with you if you have difficulty identifying a person to assist your family.
4. We ask parents to be sure students only bring essential clothes and belongings to school. **Only school-provided furniture will be allowed in students rooms this year.**

5. **We ask parents to provide their child with face masks for use during the year.** If this is not possible, the school will provide masks.

Move-In Plans & Protocols

- **Only one adult per family should accompany students to campus on Move-In Day.** If your family needs an exception to this policy, please contact Associate Head of School Ana Ramirez (aramirez@standrews-de.org) and we will work with you.
- Upon arrival at school, students will be tested immediately. We will use a PCR SARS CoV-2 viral test.
- In order to have a healthy transition period between the time of the test and the time of the result, we will stagger the arrivals of students into distinct phases, five days apart, moving seniors in first and then adding the respective Forms in phases. We will have students stay in their rooms alone until their test results allow them to move into roommate pairs.
- Once we fill the school towards capacity and cannot house students for the testing interim, we will have students quarantine with their roommates.

We ask parents not to bring students to campus for the Opening of School if they are ill, [symptomatic](#), or positive for COVID-19. We ask parents not to come to campus for the Opening of School if you are ill, [symptomatic](#), or positive for COVID-19.

Next Steps

As stated at the beginning of our report, St. Andrew's will be ready to be flexible and nimble should COVID-19 conditions change. If we determine that the spread and transmission of the virus have reached epidemic rates in our region, we will be ready to move to a complete virtual semester for as long as needed.

If we determine that transmission rates warrant a middle step, we would be ready to lower the school's capacity to the senior class and one other Form at a time.

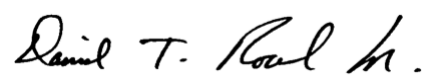
As we share this plan with you today, we have also set up the following Zoom calls for parents in each Form:

- Parents of Classes 2021 and 2022: Tuesday, July 21 at 8:30 p.m.
 - Zoom link [here](#) (password: 883364)
- Parents of Classes 2023 and 2024: Wednesday, July 22 at 8:30 p.m.
 - Zoom link [here](#) (password: 976725)

We will send reminder emails to all of you with these Zoom links, plus call-in numbers, on the day of each talk. Please email any questions you may have in advance to covid19@standrews-de.org (you will also be able to ask questions during our calls, of course). If you cannot attend, both calls will be recorded and we will post links to each recording [here](#) and [here](#) after the fact.

Again, please visit our [2020-2021 School Year page](#) on the St. Andrew's website for more information on all of the above and further details on how we are preparing to welcome students back to campus this fall.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel T. Roach, Jr.".

Daniel T. Roach, Jr.

Merrill M. Stenbeck Head of School