

Dear Shady Grove Families,

I know you just heard from me yesterday, but I thought I could provide you with a few more details specific to Shady Grove, along with some images that may give you an idea about what a typical classroom might look like with the in-person model at Shady Grove.

Attached to this letter are three documents. These documents outline many of the procedures that will be followed at Shady Grove. Many of the questions that I have been asked in the past two days are addressed in these documents, as well as many questions you may continue you to have. These were sent out through the school district over the past week, but I am attaching them here for your review.

As you may have heard Dr. Crisfield share in the School Board meetings, we will social distance within the classroom to the greatest extent possible. Children will be required to wear masks in the classroom unless they have a documented medical issue. At Shady Grove, “to the greatest extent possible” means anywhere between 4 to 6 feet between students while in the classroom. This, of course, will depend on the enrollment in each classroom, which I cannot speak to at this point as the enrollment will depend on your selection.

### **Classrooms**

Here are images from a Shady Grove classroom. The students themselves would be seated 5 feet apart in this room (the five feet is measured by the student, not the end of the desk). There are over 20 desks here, and you can see that I was somewhat conservative in the set up. More space could be maximized in this room. This set up also allows for the teacher to be distanced 5 feet or greater from the students when the teacher is at the front of the room.



### **Lunch**



During lunch students will obviously not be wearing masks, so we will need to accommodate that and adhere to the 6 foot distance. This is going to mean there will be quite a bit of “empty” space in the cafeteria and that we will need to use other spaces for lunch. Traditionally, we have had overlapping lunches at Shady Grove, with two grade levels seated in the cafeteria at once. Our capacity in the cafeteria has been 250 students. Now, we will be seating between 40-50 students in the cafeteria and only students in one grade level will be in the lunch spaces at one time. The image here highlights the spacing.

In the cafeteria, circular stickers will be placed on the benches where a student will be seated. There was a time that one of those long sections of

tables would seat an entire class or more—now, it will seat only 4 total students. Students would not sit across the table from one another in the image here—they sit on one side of the table, with everyone facing one way.

We will utilize four other spaces as lunch spaces including classrooms (these rooms were once classrooms and will no longer be classrooms—they will only be used for lunch), the library, and outdoor spaces. At all times, students will remain 6 feet apart during the lunch session.

### **Outdoor Spaces**

I am working to create multiple outdoor learning spaces that can be utilized by our teachers and students. The goal will be to provide flexible spaces outside that can be used to promote learning. Each student will receive their own rubber mat (that can and will be cleaned) to bring with them to these outdoor spaces.



This will allow them to have their own individual seat that would not be a shared seat. One of those outdoor spaces will be our Shady Grove Community Garden. I want to thank the Shady Grove Home and School Association for their dedication to this project—the work was literally done by our parents in the community, as they were out in the winter digging, moving rock, and creating this wonderful space for our students.

The other outdoor areas will be around the building, and they will provide us with opportunities to host lessons in the outside air. It is my hope to have 5 of these spaces created for the start of the school year.

### **Limited Exposure to Other Students**

Our Encore teachers, with the exception of Physical Education, will be traveling to our homerooms to conduct their lessons. While this will be a challenging task for our teachers, this will allow our students to remain in their classroom and reduce the likelihood they will be in contact with other cohorts of students. Our goal is to keep our students in their cohorts as much as possible.

Recess and outdoor breaks will take place as a class, and not a grade level as we traditionally have done in the past. Our playground equipment will not be used, and recess areas will be separated into “zones” with various activities in each zone. The activities will not include shared equipment that can be touched with hands. The activities would be more like obstacle courses (hool-a-hoops, balance beams) and other games that can be played without the use of hands, and without close contact between students.

### **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

We will be revising our arrival and dismissal procedures. This may mean adjustments to the parking lot area, and where and how we have parent drop-off and pick-up. More information will be forthcoming on this, but I am anticipating an increase in parent drop-off and pick-up, and we need to be able to make sure our process not only allows for increased traffic but also social distancing. As we learn more about our enrollment, I will share those procedures with you. I did want you to know though, that consideration is already being given to how we address these areas.

## **Our Approach with Masks and Social Distancing**

I personally believe that all the spacing and procedures any school puts in place will not be effective unless we help the students understand the purpose. As we get closer to the start of the school year, I will be reaching out to your children (and you) about the importance of masks and social distancing. There will be videos for the students, and we will outline some procedures for you to share with your children prior to their arrival. Students need to understand that their decisions matter. Their choices matter. They have the ability to keep everyone safe (kind of like a superhero...and if you know me at all, you know that I am going to capitalize on the superhero angle!).

I am hoping you will find some of this information helpful as you continue to think about your decision for the upcoming school year. Please feel free to browse the attached information, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

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