

ERS Community-

First and foremost, the ERS Board of Directors wants to thank each of you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. To say that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented us all with new challenges is an understatement; we know how much this situation has affected all of you and we hope that this note finds you safe and healthy.

In mid-June, the Board determined that ERS would be open for summer camp effective July 6th. This decision was based primarily on two factors: Fairfax County's move into Phase II of COVID response, and our ability to put measures into place to operate summer camp as safely as possible. These policies can be found on our website [here](#).

The Board has been discussing what Fall looks like, under these circumstances, as well. We are planning for an *on-time* opening for Fall on Monday, August 31st. ERS is committed to serving our community, to include the numerous families who are essential and frontline personnel. Julie will provide additional details about Fall policies and procedures by July 27th, so that you can adequately plan for the Fall.

Additionally, there are *no plans* to remove Before Care and After Care (BC/AC) from our school year offerings. The Board — made up mostly of current and former ERS parents — feels that these programs are essential offerings for our community. We know many of you rely on them; we are exploring ways to minimize the risks inherent to inter-group mingling during BC/AC, and we are committed to ensuring that we can continue to offer this service throughout the year.

Similarly, we are committed to *remaining open* during the Fall, unless more extreme circumstances force our closure. Those circumstances would be: 1) a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 within the ERS community, in which case we will consult with the Health Department, and could close for as many as 14 days, allowing our families to self-quarantine and ERS to conduct a deep cleaning of the school. In the event of isolated cases, ERS will consult current health and safety guidance and requirements when determining whether a closure of a class or of the school as a whole is necessary. Or, 2) a mandate from Fairfax County, or from the State of Virginia, that our region must enter into a mandatory stay-at-home order, which would then prevent us from allowing ERS to run in person.

While we closed in the Spring out of an abundance of caution, we now know more about COVID-19, the ways in which it is spread, and how to take steps to reduce risk. We are therefore better placed to serve our community, which has many frontline and essential workers. As such, we view the likelihood of a fall closure as much lower. Of course, we have learned that there are no absolutes and will continue to monitor the potential spread of the virus in the larger community, and will be in constant contact with Julie and the ERS staff to track the health of our ERS community. Our success also relies on your assistance keeping our little community safe; we ask that you remain vigilant in taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID throughout our close-knit group!

The Board welcomes your comments, suggestions, and questions regarding policies or plans for the Fall, and we are always more than happy to chat with any member of our community. Sarah Gamble and Amy Webster serve as the Board's Internal Affairs Committee (and Sarah as the Board President), and can be reached at sarahg@easternridgeschool.org and amyw@easternridgeschool.org, respectively.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors