

To: LOA Students, Staff, and Parents/Guardians

From: Otho Tucker, Ph.D.
CEO, Lake Oconee Academy

Date: June 26, 2020

Re: Weekly Update for June 22-26

This is the fourth of a series of weekly updates that we will be sharing over the summer as we work on plans for the resumption of school in August. Please take the time to read each of the items below.

- School start date – We still are planning to resume school on Thursday, August 6, with new staff arriving on July 28 and returning staff on July 30, and to use the school calendar for 2020-21 that is posted on the [LOA website](#).
- Survey results and 3 potential paths for reopening – Many thanks for the more than 1000 responses to our recent survey. Over half of the responses indicated that online or hybrid options could be workable or work well. We continue to look at three different options for reopening: (1) on campus; (2) online; and (3) a hybrid version, with some students on campus and some students online.
- Board considering COVID and meeting on July 6 – The LOA Board of Governors continues to follow developments and consult with health and legal authorities. The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, July 6, with more information posted on the school's website next week.
- Parameters for online learning and gauging interest – As we prepare for the possibility of online learning in some form, we have developed expectations that will help ensure a high quality of education. Among these expectations are presence, place, professionalism, participation, punctuality, and performance. More information about these expectations will be shared soon.
- Updated handbook and new uniform guidelines – The revised handbook will be released next week. It has several new elements, including revised guidelines for school uniforms. In the interest of being sensitive to the additional expenses associated with now essential items like face masks, water bottles, and earphones (all of which students and families should plan on having in August), the school will be suspending the French blue button-down shirt for the year and also permitting the use of khaki and navy bottoms from other vendors than Lands' End. The school polos from Lands' End still will be required – on campus or online. Look for more detailed information next week in the handbook.
- Uniform consignment sale scheduled for July 18 – LOA will host its annual consignment sale on Saturday, July 18. More details about how this will work, including drop-off and shopping procedures, will be shared separately via email.
- Athletics off next week – LOA teams will have a week off next week for the annual GHSA "dead week," during which teams are not allowed to practice. Additional guidance may be forthcoming from GHSA next week regarding the resumption of sports starting July 6, which we also will share.

- Practicing healthy habits – Finally, reiterating our recent messages about following [current guidelines](#) from the CDC and the GA Department of Public Health, please continue to practice healthy and preventive habits this summer, including (1) regularly washing hands; (2) avoiding touching mouth, nose, and eyes; (3) social distancing; and (4) wearing a cloth face covering, especially when outside of your home. Practice this summer will help our students be more prepared for school in August, if these guidelines are still in place.