

Dear LOA Family,

This is the seventh 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 – Still striving for 180 days of instruction, we are planning to **resume school on August 6** and to use the school calendar for 2020-21 that is posted on the [LOA website](#).
- Taking steps toward reopening – We continue to take essential steps toward reopening, including deep cleaning the entire campus and arranging for daily cleanings all of surfaces; installing no-touch, temperature-reading kiosks that will help us screen all students and faculty; and developing protocols in case someone gets sick or is exposed to someone sick, which will be shared separately and which are directly in line with the [most recent guidance from the GA Department of Public Health](#). Our goal remains 180 days of instruction with at least some students on campus every day.
- Survey data being used to register students for online or on campus – While posed as questions about family preferences, we are using the data from our last survey about “reopening options” to register students and plan for reopening in two modes: (1) with most students on campus and (2) with some students online. (See the expectations for these two modes again reprinted below.) **If you have not yet completed the survey or wish to change your response, please do so no later than the end of the day Monday, July 20. The information will be used to prepare rosters and plan instruction. The survey is available [here](#), with choices now binding.**
- Face coverings required on campus – To help mitigate the spread of the virus and protect our faculty, students, and families, LOA is requiring face coverings to be worn inside the buildings and anytime social distancing cannot be attained. This position is permitted by the [most recent Executive Order by Governor Kemp](#), which explicitly allows “requiring Workers and students to wear facemasks or face coverings while indoors on school property during school hours” (see item 3 on p. 24). **If students or families are unwilling to have students on campus wear an appropriate face covering in line with our requirements and the previously stated cornerstone principles of citizenship and community, then they should select the online option as they will not be allowed to attend classes or enter buildings.**
- Delayed start for Titan Tech and afterschool tutorial – To help reduce the number of moving parts on campus as we start a new school year with a new dismissal system, we will be delaying the start of both Titan Tech and any afterschool tutoring through at least until Monday, August 17. After those first seven days of school, we will make a decision about afterschool programs based on how well carline is operating and how well we have laid the foundation for the remainder of the year, including being prepared to go all online in the event that we are forced off campus, as we were last spring. During this initial period, school will end at 2:30. Students will remain in

classrooms until their ride arrives, notification is sent to the classroom, and the student is released to be placed in the carline queue. Ms. Katherine Nolley, the Titan Tech Director, will be sending information for those who wish to use the Titan Tech after school program when it starts operation.

- All students will need a dedicated device and reliable internet access – To be prepared for all potential circumstances, **all students at LOA will need a dedicated laptop or Chromebook (not shared with someone else) and have access to a reliable internet connection.** Before purchasing anything, please know that **while LOA permits students to use their own devices, the school can and will provide a device for every student that needs one. LOA is working with internet providers to secure additional hotspots for those without reliable internet service.** We will be sending out a separate survey next week to finalize needs and set times for the distribution of the devices.
- Shift to Canvas for all electronic course materials – As part of the school's ongoing embrace of increasingly personalized, blended, and competency-based learning for all our students, **LOA will be moving from Google Classroom to Canvas**, which is a more robust learning management system. Canvas has more features, more access for parents/guardians, and more accountability. Teachers will be using it to post everything instructional, with more information about it available [here](#). Online parent training sessions will be scheduled between August 6 through the first full week classes.
- Updated handbook and acknowledgement form – The revised handbook is available [here](#). It includes several new elements, including new uniform guidelines, as well as links to related documents with important school policies. Please take the time to review the handbook and the related documents, and then submit the accompanying [acknowledgement form](#), which both students and parents/guardians need to sign.
- 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 face covering. Practice this summer will help our students be more prepared for school.

Online Option:

Online learning in the fall will look different than during the spring. While we still will follow the same basic schedule that we use on campus and teach the same classes, we have developed a set of expectations that will apply to all LOA students engaged in online learning and that will help ensure high quality education. Among these expectations are the following six "P's":

1. **Presence** -- must be available and online during designated time slots, with camera and mic both on as requested, focused on work and topic(s) at hand (not other distractions);
2. **Place** -- need dedicated, distraction-free space, with reliable internet access and some place to sit and work (not bed, bathroom, boat, beach, etc.);
3. **Professionalism** -- need to dress and act appropriately, as for a professional meeting in person, including wearing LOA uniform polo (not pajamas, swimsuits, etc.);
4. **Participation** -- should be actively engaged in the learning process, responding to questions and contributing as appropriate and directed by the instructor (not texting, messaging, or otherwise being distracted or distracting others);
5. **Punctuality** -- must be online at designated time and meet all deadlines, logging in and downloading materials as assigned, and completing assignments on time;
6. **Performance** -- online option will not be easier, but will have the same level of high expectations as on-campus classes, with all school policies, including Honor Code, still in effect.

If online learning is optional (i.e., not required) and students elect the online option, then students must perform well – maintaining at least a C average, with no F's – and meet all of these expectations or the online option will be revoked and students will be required to return campus (assuming campus is open). Student performance will be assessed every 4.5 weeks with the posted marking periods. Students and families also may petition the school to change status from online to on-campus (or vice versa) if circumstances change or students are not performing as well as expected.

On-Campus Option:

While the daily schedule, class offerings, and academic policies will be largely the same, there will be several significant differences for on-campus classes this year, assuming that we are permitted to return to campus. These changes flow directly from current guidance provided by the GA Department of Public Health (DPH), the GA Department of Education (DOE), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO), all of which are subject to change.

Among the most important changes for the on-campus experience this year are the following:

- **Daily health screening** -- all students and staff will be screened daily, including temperature checks and other COVID-19 symptoms, as they enter campus;
- **Social distancing** -- with everyone encouraged to keep 3-6 feet apart, according to current WHO and CDC guidelines;
- **Face masks/shields** -- will be required for all students and staff at all times except during meals or when outside, with students and classes scheduled to take regular breaks outside when they be socially distanced and able to remove their masks;

- **Cohorting** -- students will be grouped together as much as feasible, with those groups held together and discouraged from intermixing as much as feasible;
- **Assigned seating** -- students will sit the same assigned seats in their classrooms;
- **No shared toys, tools, or equipment** -- with each student required to bring their own Chromebook (or have one supplied by school), face mask, earphone, water bottle, pens and pencils, etc.;
- **Staggered times** -- for dismissal and transitions to help maintain social distancing and cohorting;
- **Modified lunches** -- at least for the first month, with sack-lunches brought to younger students, who will be eating in classrooms, and with staggered times in Titan Center for older students to help maintain social distancing;
- **Marked spaces** -- with hallways, classrooms, and common spaces marked for social distancing;
- **Using outside and alternative spaces** -- to help improve social distancing and provide fresh air, students on campus may meet outside or in other designated spaces (such as the gyms, cafeteria, break-out rooms, etc.).