

July 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Grafton is pleased to announce that we will resume our on-campus private day school programs during the month of July. Our team has developed a re-opening plan, available [here](#), detailing our specific steps for ensuring the safe resumption of in-person instruction.

As with most things in this day and age, we will reopen in phases. Beginning on **July 13**, we will return our residential clients to the school program sites in Winchester and Richmond (at Berryville, they have used the school space throughout the pandemic). Classrooms will remain separated from each other and will not intermingle. Lunch will be handled via direct delivery to the classroom.

A small number of day students can return each week to our school program sites in the weeks following August 10 until all students are back. The specific date for each day student will be determined as part of a mandatory Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting prior to their return, the status of community spread of Covid-19 in the Commonwealth, and our own assessment of risk. There will be no mixing of residential and day students. Day student classes will be separated from other classes, and served by their own assigned teachers and instructional assistants throughout. This may mean that your child has a different teacher than they had prior to the epidemic.

Grafton will use enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols at school sites. All staff will continue to wear masks, which we believe is the single most important activity anyone can take to reduce the risk of infection.

We ask that you use extreme watchfulness with your child. If they present with any symptoms of respiratory illness, fever, or any other symptom that is unusual, they are to remain at home. We will screen all youth for fever or illness upon arrival at school. Should a student be found to have any symptoms, they will be kept away from all other students and we will call the parents immediately to arrange for transportation home.

Please be advised that we continue to monitor the prevalence of Covid-19 in Virginia daily, and will respond with changes to this plan if there is a second wave of the illness. We will strive to minimize risk through the procedures we have adopted, and will respond if we become aware of any potential risk for contagion, be it through a student or staff member. Given the special needs of our student population, we will always strive to ensure social distancing, but must be clear that it cannot always be guaranteed.

Though we are cautious, we are also thrilled to be able to, once again, serve students in person. We are grateful to our teachers, who have produced digital content and worked hard to maintain communication with students remotely. But I know we are all eager to engage face-to-face – even if some of those faces are covered in masks – as soon as possible.



Please be sure to reach out to us directly at [communications@grafton.org](mailto:communications@grafton.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Stewart', is written over a faint, light-colored circular watermark or background graphic.

Jamie Stewart, CEO  
Cc: Grafton Staff