



COVID-19: Eighth Response: Return to Lynnhaven

June 5, 2020

Dear Lynnhaven Community,

First, Congratulations to the Class of 2020! They made it through and finished all of their graduation requirements. I cannot tell you how pleased I am with this group of seniors. They worked very hard and made the best out of a very unfair situation. I hope everyone got a chance to watch the tribute video. It really gives you a sense of the emotions that each senior as well as faculty had on their special day. Bravo to them all!

Well, the school year is finally OVER! What a ride. I am proud of everyone who stuck this out and remained steadfast. There are better days ahead for everyone. We just have to continue to plug away each day.

Over the next several weeks, I will send out four correspondences related to the Reopening of Lynnhaven in the fall. This is the first of four letters. The purpose of this correspondence is to update you on two things:

Faculty and Staff Update

Academic Update: 2021 calendar, grading periods, and staggered start times

Faculty and Staff Update:

I am pleased to welcome two new faculty members to Lynnhaven Academy:

First, we welcome Mrs. Kim Graham as the new Part Time Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Mary Baldwin College, Mrs. Graham spent a few years in corporate America. Her love of children and teaching prevailed and she returned to school and acquired a Master of Arts in Teaching from Towson University. She has taught Language Arts, Social Studies, Computer and Drama in Middle Schools in Baltimore County MD, Virginia Beach and Rockingham County VA. All together Mrs. Graham has over 10 years of teaching experience. As a lifelong learner and mother, she continues to learn about child growth and development, diverse learning styles and neuroscience. Her son Conner, is a rising sophomore at Lynnhaven.

Next, I like to welcome Mrs. Amanda Dougherty as the new Upper School History Teacher. Ms. Dougherty has been teaching for 2 years. Ms. Dougherty grew up in Mantua, NJ, but moved to Virginia during her middle and high school years. She started her educational career at JEJ Moore Middle School in Prince George County teaching US History II 1865- Present. Ms. Dougherty received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences from Radford University where she also received a collegiate professional license from the Virginia Department of Education with endorsements in History and Social Sciences. In her free time, Ms. Dougherty enjoys reading, movies, playing catch with her dog Bandit, and spending time with her loved ones.

Academic Update:

The COVID Task force continues to meet on a weekly basis as a means to develop a solid plan to return back to Lynnhaven in the fall. I am pleased to share with you that the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar has been finalized. It's attached to this correspondence. The first event that you should pay attention to are the Virtual Parent & Student Orientations. All orientations will happen via Zoom. See the schedule below:

August 3rd from 6:00 - 7:00pm - Middle School Students

August 4th from 6:00 - 7:00pm - 9th Grade

August 5th from 6:00 - 7:00pm - 10th Grade

August 6th from 6:00 - 7:00pm - 11th and 12th Grade

We will send out the Zoom link as the orientation date comes closer.

The first day of school will be August 19th and 20th. As a way to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, the task force elected to put students into two groups and will begin school on two separate days. The two groups will be Gold and Blue. The Gold Group will have their first day on August 19th. The Blue Group will have their first day on August 20th. I will communicate your student's group in the next correspondence. Additionally, in an effort to help minimize the movement in the school, the Blue and Gold groups will have separate start and end times. I value your feedback. Therefore I have developed a survey with various start and end time scenarios. Please click [here](#) to take the survey and offer feedback. It will be open for one week.

The purpose of having two "first days" permits the COVID Task Force to have few kids at school while we work through our new processes and procedures safely. As with anything new, I want to evaluate our process and make sure we pay close attention to detail. The faculty will spend the first week introducing hygiene etiquette as it relates to COVID-19. I will outline these procedures in a later correspondence. The procedures will include things such as a scheduled handwashing and sanitation.

Perhaps the biggest changes to the academic schedule is the introduction of a block schedule and the change of grading periods. For 2020-2021 students will have classes in three trimesters instead of the typical two semesters. The three trimesters will be split into sections A and B. Students will take part of their classes during section A and the other part of their classes in section B. These sections and classes will repeat each trimester. This does three things:

Allows for a block schedule which lightens the load of students and faculty to only three classes in each section: Two core classes and one elective.

Meets the requirements set forth by our COVID Task Force to reduce the amount of times students move in the building.

Promotes a more hands-on learning environment as students are in class for a longer time and can work more on projects and other hallmarks of Lynnhaven's curriculum.

There has been a lot of research done on the benefits of block schedules for career and college readiness, reduced stress, and content retention. We feel strongly that this daily schedule aligns with our mission and vision for the school and meets the needs of our students academically and socially/emotionally.

We are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff; and to ensuring that we continue to provide a high quality and engaged learning experience that is the hallmark of Lynnhaven Academy. We continue to welcome your input and encourage you to reach out to members of the task with questions, concerns, or advice. Please review the COVID-19 webpage for updates. [Click here to email a member of the team.](#)

Please stay safe and we look forward to sharing more opening details in mid June.

Thanks,

Johnathan Harris, Headmaster