



Carden Country School

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"The purpose of education is to give children the tools they need in order to find Joy in life."

Mae Carden

July 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

I write to you today with a profound hope in the sovereignty of God and a deep faith that all things work to the good of those who love him.

The staff and Board of the Carden Country School have been working diligently throughout the summer, listening, studying, thinking, and praying. Our goals have always included, and our pledge to you is:

- 1) We will have healthy classrooms by washing hands, maximizing physical distancing and disinfecting objects between users.
- 2) We will have healthy buildings with increased outdoor air ventilation and clean surfaces.
- 3) We will provide healthy activities with outdoor recess rain or shine, and will modify classes, especially physical education and music classes, to enhance health and safety.
- 4) We will provide a healthy schedule to manage transition times and locations.
- 5) We have established healthy policies by reinforcing a culture of health and safety and prioritizing staying at home when sick.

Our goal as a community must be to strike a balance between preventing the spread of Covid-19 and providing children with the education, physical activity, and mental health benefits provided by classroom instruction. We must understand that we cannot eliminate the risk of Covid-19, but that we can reduce it by being flexible, consistent, and vigilant to the best of our ability. If the Carden Country School is to survive this temporary crisis, we must work together as a community and perhaps sometimes accept certain limitations that we don't believe we need, and perhaps sometimes bear a little more risk than we are comfortable with in order to sustain a healthy learning environment and return to campus.

The staff, Board and I offer the attached Carden Covid-19 Policy document as our best effort at finding this balance. It is a policy document, not a rulebook covering every possible circumstance or concern. Please read it carefully and prayerfully. We understand that most of us will have misgivings to at least some parts of it. We understand that some might have grave misgivings. While we live in prayerful hope, we understand that each of us must make a personal, family decision about their own path forward.

After you have prayerfully and carefully read and considered our best effort, please confirm your enrollment decision personally with Mrs. Gallivan by close of business, Monday, August 3rd, as we will need to make further plans and decisions regarding school operations.

In the event that after prayerful consideration your family chooses to not return to Carden, we wish you Godspeed and the very best of God's blessings. We have always believed and stated publicly that children are given unto their parents' care through the will of God, and that parents know and understand what is best for their own families.

Due to the uncertainty caused by the extraordinary circumstances of Covid-19, the Board has modified our refund policy for Fall 2020 as follows:

- 1) If you withdraw your student before close of business, Monday, August 3rd, you will be refunded your deposit and will not be charged curriculum or any further fees or tuition.
- 2) If you withdraw your student after August 3, but before September 1, you will be refunded your deposit and 50% of your curriculum fee and will owe no further fees or tuition.
- 3) If you withdraw your student during the month of September, you will be refunded your deposit, but will be charged for September tuition and your full curriculum fee.
- 4) If you withdraw your student after September, regular refund policy will apply.

The Staff, Board, and I appreciate your encouragement, feedback, support, and patience as we seek to meet the needs of our community. We continue to pray for each of you, and continue to ask your prayers for all our students, family and staff.

Gratefully,
Mr. Harvey