



FOX CROFT

A C A D E M Y

Arnold B. Shorey
Head of School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Oh, what to write about...? This year's Back to School letter will focus on the hybrid form of opening of school. A lot is still unknown, and a great deal of knowledge is being gained as we continue to live in a pandemic. We learned that many students missed attending school, teachers truly missed physically having the students for in-person instruction, and some are more comfortable being remote. We are going to attempt the impossible and try to appease all. Families and the Academy must communicate and work together to deliver high-quality programming in the best ideal manner. I know we can do this.

The following 11 points are the mandatory safety requirements and the physical plant modifications that will be in place. These are requirements for all students and staff that will be present at the Academy.

1. **The basis of instruction will be delivered on-line.** This will allow families to make the choice that best meets their needs to be either fully remote or in a hybrid model.
2. To lessen traffic in the building, only half the students will attend at a time. On **Mondays and Tuesdays, the Pony Cohort** of students whose last names begin with the letters A-L will attend physically. **The Pride Cohort with students whose last names begin with M-Z will attend on Thursdays and Fridays.** Wednesday will be a remote learning day. See attached **IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION.**
3. Everyone will be required to wear a mask or an **approved** alternative.
4. Pre-screening will take place by all employees and are required by students and families to do each morning before school. If someone answers yes to any of the prescreening questions and does not feel well, the student must stay home and contact the school. **The pre-screening items are attached.**
5. **Hand washing** at least three times a day, will be encouraged. Each room will have an approved hand sanitizer.
6. **Six-Foot Physical distancing will be required,** and the building will be marked as such. The English and Music wings will also be marked as one-way traffic.
7. Each room will have open windows and a fan to facilitate air movement.
8. Each room will have a chemical-free sanitizer that can be used on hands and the furniture in the building. The custodial staff will be consistently cleaning high touch surfaces throughout the day.
9. Each teacher's desk, lunchroom table, and study hall table will have a plexiglass partition.
10. **Lunches will be pre-order in the morning by the student and be prepared for the student to pick up at lunch time. Breakfast will be served similarly.**
11. **In the morning: drop off will be at the gym lobby doors for all students.** Families who will be picking their students up from school will use the usual faculty parking lot area.

If a student or staff member becomes ill during the day, there is an isolation room and outside area for students to wait for a ride. If someone is confirmed to have COVID-19, the person will

need to stay out of school for ten days from when the COVID-19 symptoms first occurred, and there have been 72 hours of being fever-free **in addition to a negative test and you will need to**

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contact the Academy. If a student or staff member tests positive, the Academy will close down for at least five days, and remote learning will continue. The CDC will be contacted, and they will do the contact tracing, and if a pattern of closure continues, the decision to go to all remote learning will be considered. **The Iris alert system will be used to communicate with students, parents, and staff.**

Some miscellaneous items: everything is subject to change as conditions, new information, and new guidelines are continually changing at any moment. Clubs will be conducted outside, in ample space, or electronically. Athletics are being planned and will be conducted under the DOE/MPA/CDC guidelines. Homeroom will be every morning at 8 am, and there will not be any large group morning meetings. Open House and Homecoming are postponed until a later date. Students must log in to their PowerSchool account each day for attendance and follow their teachers' policies. To create the flexibility to meet everyone's needs, remote learning has to be the basis. We need to work together to ensure that students engage as this will be the new way for the student to demonstrate their effort. Discipline will be simple. There will be no detention, and if a student cannot follow the rules as outlined in the Student Handbook, the student will learn remotely. Arrangements will be made for students who have weak or no internet service.

The first day of school for the Pony Cohort freshmen and new students will be on Tuesday, September 1st. The first day of school for the Pride Cohort freshmen and new students will be Wednesday, September 2nd. Thursday will be the Pony Cohort's first day for all students, and Friday will be the Pride Cohort's first day for all students. During these first few days, students will be issued their new iPads. The iPads will remain restricted until all start of school paperwork is returned and the insurance is paid. The following week after Labor Day will be the Pony Cohort for Tuesday September 8th and Wednesday the 9th, and the Pride Cohort for Thursday September 10th and Friday the 11th. The following week will be the first regular schedule of Pony Cohort (Monday, Tuesday), Wednesday deep clean/remote day, and Pride Cohort (Thursday, Friday). (See attached **IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION: Pony/Pride Cohort Schedule for Opening of School**).

There is a lot of information, and a video will be compiled and made available on Wednesday, August 26th, for families to watch. While writing this letter, we are amid families testing positive for COVID-19 that was not contracted at the Academy. The virus is here, and it was inevitable that it would reach our community. We all have a responsibility to practice the CDC guidelines that we hear constantly, and we also need to stop blaming people. Nobody has purposely contracted the virus, and it can happen to anyone. We need to avoid spreading false information on social media, **work together, be supportive, and be kind to maximize the opportunities of high school. For that, I say, a wholehearted thank you.**

Ride on Ponies,



Arnold Shorey, Head of School



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IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

2020 Opening of School

- The first day of school for the Pony Cohort (last names that begin with A-L) freshmen and new students is Tuesday, September 1, 2020, with classes starting at 8:00 am
- The first day of school for the Pride Cohort (last names that begin with M-Z) freshmen and new students is Wednesday, September 2, 2020, with classes starting at 8:00 am
- Online learning will begin for all students on Tuesday, September 1st.
- The first day of school for all students in the Pony Cohort (last names beginning with A-L) will be Thursday, September 3rd starting at 8:00 am.
- The first day of school for all students in the Pride Cohort (last names beginning with M-Z) will be Friday, September 4th starting at 8:00 am.
- On September 8th and 9th, will be the Pony Cohort, September 10th and 11th will be the Pride Cohort. (see attached table)
- The normal schedule of classes will begin with the Pony Cohort 14th/15th, Wednesday the 16th a remote learning day, and 17th/18th being the Pride cohort.
- Foxcroft Academy now carries a student accident insurance policy that covers all student-athletes while they are participating in a sport. All families also have the option of purchasing a voluntary accident insurance policy for non-interscholastic sporting activities. Please contact our Business Office at 564-8351 for details of these plans.
- **An important message to parents: Foxcroft Academy uses PowerSchool for electronic updates to student information and beginning-of-year forms and agreements. We will continue to use PowerSchool for assignment grades and class attendance, along with progress reports and report cards. Enclosed with this letter are instructions for setting up a PowerSchool account. If you have a returning student and already have a PowerSchool account, just log in and click on "Online Registration and Forms". If you already have a PowerSchool account but have a new student coming to the Academy, login, go to "My Account", click on the Students tab, and use the Access ID and Access Password to add your new student. Electronic forms to be filled out in PowerSchool include the Enrollment Agreement, Emergency Information, Health Center Form, Bus Agreement, iPad Permission Form, and Student Handbook Sign-Off Form. A link to the Co-Curricular Agreement Form and the Lunch Form for Free and Reduced Status is also available. New this year- the lunch forms can be completed online and the link is listed on the form. (If you still wish to receive material from us in paper form, please contact Pam Weatherbee at pam.weatherbee@foxcroftacademy.org or call 564-8351. Even if you have requested this in the past you will need to make a new request for paper mailings each year.**
- There will be a free lunch for all freshmen, new students, faculty, and staff and regular paid lunch will begin on Thursday, September 3rd. It is encouraged that you add money through the My School Bucks website or app to keep everything as contactless as possible. The first day for students to attend Tri-County Technical Center is Wednesday, September 2nd, which is an A day. Students who attend TCTC will take a bus to that site from Foxcroft Academy.



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- **State of Maine Lunch Forms:** Even if you choose not to receive free or reduced hot lunch, **if you are eligible**, completing the form helps the Academy receive up to 60% of its computer networking and telecommunication costs from the Federal government. Please complete this confidential form if you feel you may be eligible; the cost savings to the Academy could be in the tens of thousands of dollars. If you know you are not eligible, there is no need to complete or return this form. All of the required forms should be completed **by the first day of school**.
 - **School Lunch:** Lunch prices for students will be **\$3.05** for the 2020-21 school year. Those eligible for reduced lunches will pay **\$0.40**. Breakfast is **\$1.50** while the reduced price is **\$0.30**. Students who were approved for free or reduced lunches for the 2019-20 school year will be able to receive the same benefit for 30 days. If you qualify for free or reduced lunches for the current school year, you must have the school lunch form completed and returned to Foxcroft Academy by September 30th or the benefit will be suspended until the paperwork is received. These forms may be picked up in the main office or printed from the Foxcroft Academy website and may also be filled out online at the link on the form.
 - For qualifying seniors, senior privileges will start immediately after the student has met all the requirements.
 - Lockers will not be used.
 - If you plan to be a remote learner, please email itdept@foxcroftacademy.org to make arrangements to collect your iPad.
 - The emergency information forms are critical as they will be how we contact you in case of an emergency, so please make sure it is completed with the most current information.
 - **Lifetouch Studios will be here soon after the start of school to take student portraits. The dates will be sent out as soon as we have them and flyers will be sent home with students or available in the office.** Any seniors who are providing their own senior picture will need to have that into the yearbook staff shortly after the start of school for the senior section deadline.
 - **Student Handbook:** The Student Handbook informs all students of their responsibilities and expresses the expectations we have for them at the Academy. Please view the Student Handbook with your student on their iPad or online at www.foxcroftacademy.org, so you can review the rules and regulations of Foxcroft Academy together. **We will require a signed statement from each student and their parent/guardian that indicates that the Student Handbook has been reviewed. This form may be returned electronically or by paper form.**
 - Open House Date will be announced at a later date and will be virtual.
 - Parents/Guardians- I would also encourage you to join the Foxcroft Academy Parent Advisory Council which is starting its 11th year. This is a parent group that meets with the Head of School to discuss issues and provide input to programming at Foxcroft Academy. Our first meeting will be announced at a later date. Please email Ms. Weatherbee, pam.weatherbee@foxcroftacademy.org if you are interested.
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- **Important Phone Numbers:**
 - Main Office- 564-8351
 - Attendance and Discipline- 564-5647
 - Counseling Services- 564-8893



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Pony/Pride Cohort Schedule for Opening of School

Monday 8/31	Tuesday 9/1	Wednesday 9/2 A Day	Thursday 9/3 B Day	Friday 9/4 A Day
No School	First Day for New Students in the Pony Cohort	First Day for New Students in the Pride Cohort	First Day for All Students in the Pony Cohort	First Day for All Students in the Pride Cohort
Monday 9/7	Tuesday 9/8 B Day	Wednesday 9/9 A Day	Thursday 9/10 B Day	Friday 9/11 A Day
No School (Labor Day)	Pony Cohort		Pride Cohort	
Monday 9/14 B Day	Tuesday 9/15 A Day	Wednesday 9/16 B Day	Thursday 9/17 A Day	Friday 9/18 B Day
Pony Cohort		Remote Day	Pride Cohort	

COVID-19

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours
have you had a fever
(100.4 and above*) or
used any fever reducing
medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick with any
of the most common
symptoms?
(see symptom list to the right)

YES =



Have you been in close
contact with a person who
has COVID-19?

YES =



Have you traveled
outside of the state in
the past 14 days?

YES =



Contact
Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "other" or "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of
breath
or difficulty
breathing
Fever (100.4 or
greater)*

Other Symptoms

Chills
Muscle pain
Sore throat
New loss of taste
or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Nausea or
Vomiting
Stomach pain
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Rash
Swelling or redness
of hands/feet
Red eyes/eye
drainage
Congestion/
runny nose

*Fever is 100.4
regardless of
measurement
location (oral,
temporal).