

Dear Waldorf Community,

As our school looks forward to the 2020-21 school year, there have been few certainties over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. But one thing we do know is that the pandemic has left some in our community with heavy financial burdens, unexpected job losses, and social trauma. Before writing to you about what we are doing in anticipation of reopening our physical building, we want to let you know three things:

1. We have extended the tuition commitment deadline to June 15. We hope that will allow families to evaluate their financial situations without the pressure of a looming deadline.
2. If your family has experienced financial or other hardships recently, please reach out to Heather or Anita to help determine your best next steps to getting support and to re-evaluating your tuition.
3. The board of trustees is aggressively looking at all our tuition policies right now. Please know that they are working to identify policies for next year that reflect the uncertainties of this time.

**With that in mind, we are eagerly anticipating reopening our school.** With summer camp approaching and the start of a new academic school year in the far distance, we have been proactively readying the school to reopen its physical doors.

#### **Reopening Task Force**

The school's Reopening Task Force has been researching best practices; understanding guidelines set forth by the CDC, state and Beverly Board of Health; planning and implementing new policies and procedures for the facility; and ensuring that the faculty are adapting their teaching methods and curriculum to meet the needs of this new environment. This is a significant task with many areas of work to consider and plan for – and we are taking an “all hands on deck” approach with the entire administrative staff and representatives of our faculty and board.

The first question that we all have is **when will we reopen?**

[The state has set forth a four phase plan to reopen](#). Massachusetts is now in phase one and, if things go well, we will move into phase two, which will include the opening of camps and programs. We are hopeful that our summer programs will be able to move forward as planned and will be instituting new policies and procedures for these programs.

Perhaps your next question is **what will the new policies and protocols be?**

Right now, there are no hard and fast guidelines from the government on what schools need to reopen. However, we are looking at resources the government has provided, researching best practices, and receiving guidance from credible organizations, such as Association for Waldorf

Schools of North America, Association for Independent School of New England, and American Camping Association, among others.

That being said, we are anticipating that all schools, including ours, will:

- have a daily check in procedure for everyone entering the building, which will include taking temperatures with contactless thermometers.
- increase the number of handwashing stations - inside and outside
- evaluate cleaning schedule and supplies to ensure they meet regulations and best practices
- have staggered pick up and drop off schedules to reduce the number of people on campus at one time
- limit the number of people entering the building
- support physical distancing protocols for students, faculty, and staff, which means having smaller groups in classrooms and ensuring desks are kept a certain distance apart

While we are actively preparing for these changes, all the final protocols and procedures will be driven by state and local officials. We are committing to more regular communications, and at the same time, trying to be sensitive to all the information that is coming at all of us.

So, until we have clear guidelines from the state, we will not know exactly what the experience of reopening will look like for our students, families and faculty/staff (e.g., Will we all be required to wear masks? How many students can be in a classroom at once? Are the rules different for outside versus inside?). However, we do anticipate more changes will unfold as we receive state guidelines for our school.

As we proactively plan and implement new ways of being together and design procedures to ensure we are creating as safe and healthy an environment as possible, please know that our community's health and safety continues to be at the forefront of our thinking. We also want to keep the community informed about this planning that will be ongoing and will have a weekly update from our Reopening Task Force in our newsletter moving forward.

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts to share we urge you to do so. You can email the office at [info@waldorfmoraine.org](mailto:info@waldorfmoraine.org), and your questions will be directed to the person who can answer it best.

Sincerely,

Teri Riddle  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Heather Collis Puro  
Interim Faculty/Administration Director

Coleen Ryan  
Admissions Director  
Chair, Reopening Task Force