

September 4, 2020

Dear SMSA Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for adapting quickly and gracefully to the recent late change in school plans. While necessary, it was not our preferred or intended scenario. Our team has worked very hard to develop a comprehensive Return to the Ledge plan, which is informed and approved by the Fond du Lac County Health Department. The plan includes a process to follow if and when COVID-19 is identified on the Ledge. Indeed, last evening we were made aware that for the first time, an SMSA high school student tested positive for COVID-19.

Due to school officials receiving late confirmation of the positive case on September 3, and with a short timeframe to respond, SMSA leadership made a decision to be extra cautious. We believed it was important to allow the necessary time to execute our school's role in both contact tracing and communication with impacted families and staff. Consequently, we chose to implement virtual learning for our high school students today.

We can now confirm that SMSA high school classes will resume in-person on Tuesday, September 8. Those who were in close contact with the positive case will quarantine at home for fourteen (14) days. During that time they shall resume classes virtually/online as our Return to the Ledge plan outlines.

During this historic and unpredictable pandemic we are all learning-as-we-go. If you as a parent learned today's SMSA news through the media or elsewhere, we apologize. We continue to work through all the processes - including communications - linked to the health protocol. Moving forward, please be informed that SMSA will not be communicating each time a positive case is identified on the Ledge. We will only communicate to those with direct exposure. Soon, you will be able to access a weekly dashboard containing updated information pertinent to the pandemic in our Springs community. More information will be shared once we have finalized our communication plans.

In the development of Return to the Ledge, our plan acknowledges the ability to limit "exposure" to COVID-19 is not within our control. No plan can accomplish that. Our SMSA plan is designed to mitigate "transmission" of COVID-19. In fact, the contact tracing we have just completed indicates that COVID-19 was not contracted on the Ledge, but rather was the result of social gatherings in the broader community where few health precautions were exercised. The success of our plan depends on every member of our Springs community being conscious, thoughtful and committed to being a healthy community. The partnership of our families has never been more critical. Students and parents must increase their vigilance to limit risk for all. We teach in our Theology classes that we are all connected. While a mysterious truth, we see clearly the impact of one life on another during this time of pandemic. Our individual decisions impact the lives of others. Our family decisions impact the choices available to other families. If

we value in-person schooling on the Ledge, then SMSA families must increase their vigilance in monitoring children's mobility and activities.

During this unique period of time, it is very important for our families to review COVID-19 symptoms.

*People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

-Fever or chills

-Cough

-Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

-Fatigue

-Muscle or body aches

-Headache

-New loss of taste or smell

-Sore throat

-Congestion or runny nose

-Nausea or vomiting

-Diarrhea

*Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

-Trouble breathing

-Persistent pain or pressure in the chest

-New confusion

-Inability to wake or stay awake

-Bluish lips or face

Please observe the following practices around reporting absences. Moving forward:

- If you are reporting an absence of any child who exhibits any of the COVID-19 symptoms, DO NOT CALL the attendance line, any employee or personal relative serving at SMSA. Rather, all COVID-19 related absences should be reported through this form <https://www.smsacademy.org/reportcovid/>

- If you are reporting a health related or anticipated absence unrelated to COVID-19, please call the attendance line at (920)322-8036

Thanks for your support and partnership in the face of challenges. Once again, accept our apology if you happened to learn of our transition to virtual learning through sources other than the school. We strive to improve our practices each day. We are blessed to be together at this time. Our Lady of the Ledge, pray for us.

In Your Service,

Stacey Akey

President