

October 22, 2020

Dear Meerkat Family,

As the pandemic continues to plague our country, we strive to determine the correct balance between quarantine and face-to-face instruction. As stated by Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner for the Nebraska Department of Education, “where they’re following protocols, we are not seeing spread in schools.” Dr. Adi Pour has also stated that if the rest of the community did what schools are doing, we would reduce positive cases. We have had a few isolated positive COVID-19 cases at Mandela, but **there have been no reports of transmission** to anyone else in school. We are confident that our scholars are getting a more robust education with dynamic face-to-face instruction, so long as there continues to be a lack of school spread. To achieve this, we continue to observe strict health and safety protocols; everyone wears a mask at all times, washes and sanitizes their hands frequently, and socially distances as much as possible.

Therefore, we will remain fully open and engaged with all learners continuing forward. Based on CDC guidelines, we will close if we have 10 percent of our population out with the same illness. Therefore, if 10 percent of our combined scholar and team absences are due to COVID-19, we will close the building for two weeks and have an immediate transition to full-time online learning.

The flu season is also upon us, and we encourage everyone to get a flu shot. If we experience a 10 percent absence rate with flu, we will close for three days and transition to full-time online learning.

We appreciate your support, patience, collaboration, input, and guidance as we continue to navigate these unprecedented waters. We are fortunate to have a passionate, committed, and dedicated team at Mandela who continues to be vigilant and working hard to keep your children safe and educate them in stressful times.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us @ [gcore@omandela.org](mailto:gcore@omandela.org) or [jmurray@omandela.org](mailto:jmurray@omandela.org) or call the office at 402-991-1444

Administration Team

Mrs. Genevive Core and Mr. Joe Murray