



September 16, 2020

Dear HVWS Community,

We are living through unprecedented times. School campuses were among the first public gathering places to halt meeting in person last spring, making parents and students keenly aware and appreciative of what education can and should mean to kids.

We've experienced a big sigh of relief to have our opening week in the rear-view mirror and to witness our students' joy at returning to campus with friends and their beloved teachers. Thank you for your continued patience as we iron out the kinks encountered when written policy meets implementation with actual humans!

Drop-off and pick-up fall into this category. It will take our community a little while to get into the new routine, but we can see this improving every day. Recess is another area we have our eyes on as students and teachers alike are creating new mask-wearing and physical distancing habits: discerning when to take breaks, when to don masks after breaks, as well as learning how to estimate 6 ft! It is a work-in-progress that we feel very good about, and at the same time are always working to improve.

Children have been impacted emotionally by limited contact with friends. Perhaps our most important goal as a school this year is to support their social growth and unfolding. Much of what they are doing during these crucial years is learning how to live with others, defining themselves in relation to their peers and the world, and figuring out how to be effective members of a community.

We're all so happy and feel so lucky to be able to be back in person at school, especially when so many others are online or hybrid. We recognize that with this privilege comes a need to be extra vigilant about following health and safety guidelines to ensure that students and staff are staying healthy both inside of school and out, working to keep the entire community COVID-free. Our goal is to stay on campus ALL year. We want to recognize the commitment of the entire community both on and off campus to utilize strategies to mitigate the risks of the virus: face coverings, handwashing, physical distancing, and a daily health attestation for all students and staff. Thank you!

The Leadership Council appreciated the opportunity to hear from parents throughout the summer during our virtual office hours, which we will continue this school year. These calls were a great opportunity to really listen, hear ideas and concerns, forge new relationships, and continue an open dialog with the parent body. Our Town Halls, also introduced this summer, will continue through the school year as well.

Fall Schedule

Leadership Council Office Hours

At these recurring meetings, parents set the agenda with their questions and a conversation ensues.

- Monday, September 21, 4:30 pm
- Monday, October 19, 4:30 pm
- Monday, November 16, 4:30 pm

Town Hall

Relevant school topics and information will be shared by the Board of Trustees, College of Teachers, and the Leadership Council.

- October 28, 7 pm

Please save the dates on your calendar. Email leadership@waldorfct.org for the links to attend.

With an abundance of hope,

The Leadership Council
Charlotte Bergmans, President, Board of Trustees
Alex Exley, Business Manager
Therese Lederer, Enrollment Director
Leslie Lew, Chair, College of Teachers

Waldorf Education is exactly what students and families need right now.