

# MILTON ACADEMY

— DARE TO BE TRUE —

Dear Upper School Families,

I write to share the next phase of our campus reopening plan. In consultation with medical and public health experts, the Board of Trustees and I have approved our task force recommendation to begin opening our boarding program in January.

All boarding and day families should review the key details below—which include important dates and pandemic-response logistics—for our boarding students' return and the continuation of our day students' hybrid program. Our planning process has been informed by your valuable feedback in the recent Upper School Parent Survey. As at any point during this pandemic, we may be forced to change course due to conditions outside of our control. The plans outlined below allow for flexibility and are structured to work if we need to adjust dates.

## **RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROGRAM**

We will reopen all eight of our dormitories beginning on January 7 for a phased return of boarding students. In order to best protect the students and adults on campus, we will maintain a de-densified campus and limit almost all of our dorm rooms to one student. We are therefore unable to accommodate all boarding students for the entire period between winter break and Graduation. However, all boarding students will have the opportunity to live in the dormitories for at least a portion of this time.

Boarding students will return as follows:

- **Class I and Class IV boarders** will return to campus for the entire period from winter break to Graduation (except for spring break, when we currently anticipate asking boarders to leave campus).
- **Class III boarders** will return to campus from winter break to spring break.
- **Class II boarders** will return to campus from spring break to Graduation.

We will also continue to offer a fully remote learning program for any students who wish to remain off campus. Boarding students wishing to attend on-campus classes as temporary day students may do so.

If a significant number of boarders elect to stay remote or continue as temporary day students, we may have the ability to revisit some elements of this plan, including allowing some students to return to the dorms for longer periods of time. Any potential changes will be communicated in mid-December by the Upper School.

## **Required Return-to-Dormitory Protocol**

Boarders will return to campus in groups beginning on January 7 following a required 14-day quarantine at home. Boarders must also obtain a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to their arrival on campus.

Upon return to campus, boarders will spend additional time quarantining in their rooms (five days) and then their dorms (four days), for an on-campus quarantine period of nine days total, during which they will learn remotely in their rooms. After three negative COVID-19 tests on campus, boarders will attend class in person beginning on Tuesday, January 19. Following the quarantine period, COVID-19 testing will be required at least twice per week for dorm community members.

### **Student Contingency Plan**

All students, international and domestic, who return to campus as boarders are required to have on file with the Deans' Office an approved emergency plan to be used in the case of campus closure or a prolonged shift to fully remote learning. For additional details, please see the [Residential Life page](#) of our Milton 2020–2021 plan.

### **Off-campus Activities**

To minimize potential exposure to COVID-19, we will limit off-campus activities for boarders. Boarders may go off-campus only for activities supervised by Milton Academy personnel. They may not participate in other off-campus activities, including club sports, nor may they go home on weekends or to other students' homes. These and other policies will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis. Additional details about boarding student activities and restrictions are available in the [Residential Life page](#) of our Milton 2020–2021 plan.

### **Required Boarding Student Response Form: Due Dec. 4**

All boarding families, including families of students currently attending as temporary day students, must submit their plans for return on the [Spring 2021 Boarding Survey](#) no later than Friday, December 4.

Any boarding student whose family does not complete this survey by the December 4 deadline will keep their current status, either fully remote or temporary day student.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR DAY AND BOARDING STUDENTS**

As we continue to increase our campus population, we remain committed to best-practice health and safety protocols, including maintaining six feet of distance in our classrooms, hallways, and other gathering spaces. We developed these protocols based upon guidance from outside medical and health experts, including the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc., and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This commitment means we will continue to have a portion of our Upper School student body in classrooms and common spaces at any given time while others learn remotely. Our academic program will be executed as follows between winter break and Graduation:

- **Day students** will remain in two cohorts with each cohort attending in-person classes in alternating weeks; they will continue to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. We will adjust the composition of existing groups and notify day-student families of revisions before winter break. This pattern ensures that a majority of students, day and boarding, participate in a similar number of in-person classes throughout the academic year. Day students with remote-enrollment status for the fall must contact the dean of enrollment if they wish to change status.

- **Boarding students** residing on campus will attend in-person classes each week, providing opportunities for day and boarding students to learn on campus together. Boarding students who wish to maintain their remote or temporary day status should indicate as such on the boarding decision survey.

Our commitment to the health and safety of all students and adults in our community remains. Since the beginning of the school year, some teachers have opted to teach remotely for their own well-being and that of their families. While we actively work toward the safe return of all community members to campus, some teachers, for the time being, will continue to teach their classes remotely.

### **UPCOMING COMMUNICATIONS**

We will host two informational Boarding Family Forum Zoom webinars later this week. Please sign up for the session that is most convenient for your family:

- Thursday, November 19 at 8.p.m (ET): [Boarding Family Forum registration](#)
- Friday, November 20 at 8 a.m. (ET): [Boarding Family Forum registration](#)

After December 4, once we have determined the number of boarders returning to dorms, all families will receive more detailed information for their child's 2021 return to campus. For day families, this will include cohort assignments and the January COVID-19 testing schedule. You may contact David Ball with questions at [david\\_ball@milton.edu](mailto:david_ball@milton.edu). Please also visit our website's [Milton 2020–2021 plan](#) for additional details on the Upper School program and frequently asked questions.

### **ONGOING COVID PROGRESSION**

Evolving COVID-19 trends may require changes to our plans and protocols, as they have throughout the pandemic, particularly at a time when infection rates are increasing in Massachusetts. We are navigating the challenges of the pandemic together as a community dedicated to the education and well-being of all Milton students. Again, we appreciate the feedback you have provided to us. We will share a summary of our recent survey findings in this week's Deans' Office newsletter.

Although the pandemic continues to generate much uncertainty in our world, we remain committed to providing an excellent education in the safest way possible. We are grateful for your continued partnership as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Todd B. Bland  
Head of School

David Ball  
Upper School Principal