

April 26, 2021

Good afternoon Stokes School Community.

Mayor Muriel Bowser recently announced the city's intention that all students return to the classroom full time at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year—an intention that Stokes School shares. We look forward to having our students and staff back in the buildings for in-person teaching, learning, and playing in August.

As much as we wish for the removal of all restrictions and a return to “normal”, we must be prepared for a number of potential outcomes. We acknowledge and appreciate the difficulty this uncertainty creates for families who need to make plans.

While the updated guidelines on social distancing have eased the logistical process, we still need to make a number of adjustments in order to achieve our goal of being open full-time, in-person, and in our existing buildings. Our anticipated start date for next school year is **August 30**. We will share the finalized calendar next week.

If the current health guidelines remain in place in the fall, we will be able to offer full time, regular, and in-person instruction for Brookland scholars with some modifications. The details of the modifications will be determined by location, availability, and affordability. We aim to have these decisions in place by the end of May.

1. If we are able to find a space that is close to the Brookland campus, is affordable, and can accommodate our overflow needs, we will lease that space.

If we are not able to find a close, affordable, or adequate space, we are exploring these options:

2. Shift one grade level to portables on the Brookland campus, and shift two grade levels to the East End Campus, or
3. Shift three grade levels to a third location in partnership with other schools with similar space restrictions.

In the event that students are at an off-site location, Stokes School will provide transportation for students from the Brookland Campus.

If none of these options are available, we will have to consider continuing with students on an A/B hybrid schedule, although this is not a preferred option.

We will continue to update the community on our progress on these decisions through letters such as this on ParentSquare, updates on the [School's Re-Entry Portal](#) site, and through the monthly reports by Mr. Bobby, the Campus Director, at the PTA meetings. Additionally, we will hold a Town Hall Meeting on **May 13 at 5pm**.

We hope this information helps to set expectations for the coming months. Please reach out to school leadership if you have further questions.

Yours in service,

The Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School