



August 12, 2020

Dear Parents:

Over the course of the summer, a taskforce has been carefully reviewing guidance from the New York State Health Department and the New York State Education Department to develop a reopening plan that best meets the educational and safety needs of our students, staff, and families. Furthermore, the taskforce has been monitoring increases in cases of COVID-19 among children after schools have reopened in other parts of the country, as well as considering the concerns of CSI parents expressed in a recent family survey.

In order to provide our students with the safest and the most regular and consistent access to teachers, the Charter School of Inquiry will begin the school year with an initial phase of remote learning only. This phase of reopening will be a combination of live online instruction from teachers and guided independent work using online learning programs. Students' first day will be September 8, and a specific schedule will be sent to families prior to students' first day. Steps will be taken to ensure that every student has access to a Chromebook for instructional purposes.

CSI will continue to assess a number of factors to determine when we will be able to transition to the second phase, which will be a hybrid model (a combination of in-person and remote learning), and the third phase, which will be 100% in-person learning. Factors will include public health conditions and data, the availability of timely testing and contact tracing, and the Buffalo Public School District's ability to transport students safely.

Our goal is to have all students return to school as soon as possible in a safe and effective learning environment.

A series of virtual meetings to answer parents' questions will be scheduled during the week of August 17. Please monitor our school's Facebook page and website for the dates and times of these meetings.

Teachers will be reaching out to parents regarding Chromebook distribution and orientation to our new online learning platforms.

As always, we are grateful for the support and understanding of our school community during these challenging and ever-changing times.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Sheffield".

John W. Sheffield,
Head of School