

July 2, 2020

San Marcos Academy Families,

Over the past several weeks, I have received emails from students and families asking how San Marcos Academy will handle the reopening of school this coming fall. There have been many questions and varied opinions regarding plans for the health and safety of our students. The health, safety, and security of our students are important, and it is wise to consider all the facts and information available to us.

We have monitored closely all relevant health guidance and will continue to monitor education-based facts and information as we stay abreast of information from our national, state, and local governments.

The mandatory closing of schools in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to more precisely focus on the sanitization of our campus and develop a broad plan for campus closure and our response. During this time, we began to develop the SMA Communicable Disease Action Plan (CDAP) that details a four-stage response system should San Marcos Academy face the spread of any communicable disease. We published this plan on our COVID-19 Information Page on our website, and it has been the frame for our plan for reopening.

I tasked Mr. Bob Wiegand, Senior Vice President, to chair the COVID Reopening Task Force that is made up of parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and medical professionals. The primary goal of this task force was to develop a proposal for reopening and to begin addressing areas of concern regarding the spread of any communicable disease. This team has met and has further developed the CDAP and generated further questions to be answered. The task force has submitted its initial proposal to my office for consideration.

I have deliberated on the task force proposal and feel that I must have more information from students and families before we can establish the best reopening guidelines for SMA. Consequently, I am asking our parents, students, faculty, and staff to participate in a survey that will allow you to express your concerns regarding reopening. Your honest and thoughtful participation will help us to generate the best plan for reopening.

I know that you all are anxious to receive the plan and understand how SMA will protect the health, safety, and security of our families and employees. I am choosing not to rush the development of the reopening plan so that we may thoughtfully and prayerfully consider all options and concerns. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey and letting us know your thoughts and feelings.

I will close the survey on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 5:00 PM, so make sure to have your information completed in a timely manner.

Brian N. Guenther, Ed.D.

President

San Marcos Academy