



May 22, 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the positive response we received to the **re-entry plan** we sent out mid-week. While teachers continue to be focused on the needs of our students through our last day of school on May 29th, our Scenario Task Force is hard at work planning for our safe return to campus in August. One aspect of planning for next year includes re-evaluating our calendar in light of the restrictions and requirements that COVID-19 has imposed on our world. At present, we have no plans to make substantial changes to next years' calendar with one exception. We are focusing our resources on gearing up for a successful, healthy on-campus start to the new school year and regretfully, we are unable to take the overnight trips that were planned for the fall. We are holding out hope that day trips will be allowed; if they are, we plan to take advantage of these opportunities to engage in the valuable experiences that off-campus excursions provide. Trips scheduled for after Thanksgiving break are still being considered.

Our next re-entry update will be sent to the community the week of June 15. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have concerns or questions in the meantime.

This week as the unrelenting rain poured down, our students provided us with blasts of sunshine that defied the stubborn skies. They do this often, with an uncanny sensitivity to teacher fatigue or frustration. The week was full of stories of students reaching out to help their classmates and saying thank you to teachers for checking in on them or providing the extra help, support, or challenge that NGFS is known for. Perhaps the sweetest moment of all was a fifth-grade student, new to our community this year, responding to her teachers' offer of help on a day that teacher does not normally report to work. The student answered this offer with empathy expressing that she knew that was a family day for her teacher. Although this spring has been stressful, the way our students and teachers have worked together, day after day has not just advanced academic progress, it has nurtured the kindness, empathy, and compassion we see as an essential part of educating the engaged citizens our world needs.

Wishing you a lovely, safe holiday weekend,

Kim