Acknowledgment of Community Responsibility

We have always taken pride in the Norfolk Academy Family of students, teachers, parents, grandparents, and more. Now, though, as never before, the actions of every individual in our family can have profound implications for the health and safety of the entire group.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented the Norfolk Academy community, and in fact the entire global community, with the unique challenge of balancing the benefits of human gathering and socialization against the risks posed by the transmissibility and health effects of the virus. As we prepare to reconvene school, we are doing our best to balance those two factors, but the ever-evolving understanding of the virus and the changing infection rates in Hampton Roads make any interim approach imperfect at best.

We will be taking numerous steps at school to minimize the likelihood of transmission of the virus. Health checks, physical distancing, cloth face coverings, frequent cleanings, hand-washing, and use of hand sanitizer are just some of the measures we’ll be putting in place and enforcing, based on guidance from the CDC, Virginia Department of Health, and other experts, to reduce the possibility of community spread of the virus.

However, these efforts at school must be backed up by your efforts at home, thus reducing the likelihood of sending an infected child to school. We ask all parents to acknowledge the following:

• I understand that there is risk associated with sending a child to school, but that Norfolk Academy will strive, as it always has, to minimize the risks to children on campus. I also acknowledge that, by choosing to send my child to school, I believe that the benefits of attendance outweigh those risks.

• I agree that, on any day on which I send a child to school, I will check his or her temperature before leaving home and also check for possible symptoms of COVID-19. If my child exhibits any of these symptoms, I will keep that child at home.

  o Fever of 100.4°F (38.0°C) or greater
  o Chills
  o Cough
  o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  o Fatigue
  o Muscle or body aches

  o Headache
  o New loss of taste or smell
  o Sore throat
  o Congestion or runny nose
  o Nausea or vomiting (GI symptoms)
  o Diarrhea

• I also understand that actions of my child or my family off-campus can have grave implications for the entire Norfolk Academy community – ranging from the shutdown of portions of the school to dire health consequences for other students, teachers, and their families. I will commit to responsibly limiting our family’s outside activities and ensuring that safe masking and physical distancing practices are honored when we do engage in any group activities.

Families who have participated in any high-risk activity or gathering, where protocols for physical distancing and mask-wearing are not followed, should switch to distance learning and remain home for at least two weeks. If the school administration becomes aware of such behavior or exposure, students may be required to shift to distance learning.

We remind families of BOLT, our enhanced Distance Learning plan, which allows students to make progress and connect with teacher and peers from home. We will require Distance Learning for any student who has tested positive or has had extended exposure to anyone with COVID-19.

We are in this together. Thank you, as always, for your partnership.