

From: Lutz Prep Administration <administration@lutzprep.org>
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Lutz Prep Administration <administration@lutzprep.org>
Subject: Lutz Preparatory School: Important Message from Administration Regarding the 2021-22 School Year

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Lutz Preparatory School
A Hillsborough County Public Charter School

Dear Lutz Prep Parents & Guardians,

We want to thank you for your support and vigilance as we work together to keep our Lutz Prep community safe and academically engaged in the wake of the now yearlong COVID-19 pandemic. We are extremely proud of our students, teachers, and staff as they have demonstrated a remarkable ability to adapt and embrace change in the face of the challenges presented by COVID-19.

As Lutz Prep continues to closely monitor public health data, the purpose of this letter is to provide an update on our plans for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

As you know, throughout this current 2020-21 school year, we have provided the option to select either Model A (traditional brick and mortar) or Model B (eLearning) to meet each family's individual needs and preferences. Although offering these completely different models presented significant obstacles in our day-to-day operations and placed an immense amount of additional work onto our teachers and staff, we feel that our approach was the right thing to do in light of the COVID situation at the time.

With that said, we are encouraged by the declining daily positive case rates and the increased availability of COVID vaccinations, both of which are expected to continue to improve over the next several months. Accordingly, we are preparing to solely offer all Lutz Prep students a brick and mortar experience beginning in Fall 2021. This means Lutz Prep will return to **only** on-campus learning beginning next school year. Despite our best efforts, our data shows that many

students who opted in eLearning are not succeeding academically and would benefit from a return to in person learning. There is also a growing body of evidence regarding the mental health benefits of attending school in person with classmates. Simply, there's no way to replicate or replace the whole child learning experience on campus with LP teachers and peers through the eLearning instructional model.

Lutz Prep will remain committed to the health and safety of its students, teachers, and staff by referring to COVID-related CDC guidelines, guidance from School District, and other recommendations by public health officials when the 2021-22 school year begins. We will also continue to consult with Tampa General Hospital and remain ready to adjust to changing conditions as needed.

Although we are excited to welcome all our students back on campus in the Fall of 2021, we also recognize that some families may not be comfortable with in-person instruction. These families have the option to withdraw from Lutz Prep to homeschool independently, seek enrollment at an alternative school that offers eLearning, Hospital/Homebound if eligible/available, or to enroll in either Florida Virtual School or Hillsborough Virtual K-12. Should you choose to proceed with one of these alternatives, please contact Lori Toso at admissions@lutzprep.org or 813-428-7100 and we will be happy to assist with your students' transition.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and support of our decision to return to brick and mortar instruction exclusively in Fall 2021. We know this approach is the best choice for our school as we continue to strive to provide a rigorous, differentiated learning experience in order to cultivate and inspire a community of life-long learners. GO BOLTS!

Please see the attached Q&A for general questions.

LP School Year: 2021-2022

Brick & Mortar ONLY

Q & A

**Please advise: the information provided below is based on current guidance and consultation.*

All processes and procedures are subject to change.

Will masks be required in the fall?

TBD. No final decision has been made regarding masks however we are still partnering with Tampa General Hospital's Infectious Disease Unit throughout the 2021/22 school year. At this time, the county still has a mask order in place, and that could change in the coming months. It is easiest to plan that we will all be in masks when you make your decision.

What options are available for medically fragile children?

For a small number of students, Hospital/Homebound is a service to continue instruction at home or in the hospital. Hospital Homebound is not a school of choice and state criteria for eligibility must be met. It is for students who are medically diagnosed as too medically compromised to attend school.

What are my virtual options since Lutz Prep will not be offering e-learning?

The virtual options we are most familiar with are Hillsborough Virtual and Florida Virtual. Both of these options require your student to withdraw with Lutz Preparatory in order to enroll in their virtual program.

If I choose to withdraw my child from Lutz Prep to attend Hillsborough Virtual or another school/learning program, will my child be given enrollment preference for a future year at Lutz Prep?

Unfortunately, no. As a charter school, Lutz Prep is subject to Sections 1002.31 & 1002.33, Florida Statutes, which, among other things, expressly enumerates the types of enrollment preferences that may be granted by a charter school. This list of allowable enrollment preferences does not permit a preference to be given to a student who withdraws and then wishes to reapply, regardless of the reason for such withdrawal. Neither Lutz Prep Administration nor its Board of Directors has the authority to override this statutory provision. Accordingly, Lutz Prep is legally precluded from offering a student an enrollment preference based on that student's previous withdrawal from Lutz Prep.

Will students be arranged in cohorts next year?

Health and safety is our top priority. We will consult with the experts, look at infection rates in the community, and will make decisions with student/staff safety in mind. Currently, we are planning on arranging students in cohorts since students can not currently be vaccinated.

What mitigation strategies will be in place on campus next year?

We will be continuing all mitigation strategies currently in place this year into next school year. Any changes will be communicated through updates sent to families.

Will arrival and dismissal procedures change next year?

Currently we intend on conducting arrival and dismissal procedures in the same format as this year. Arrival will include three entrances for student entry only.

Dismissal will have two staggered times:

- 2:30pm Dismissal = Students in KG, 1st, and 2nd grade (single riders or who have siblings in *only* those grade levels K-2)
- 3:00pm Dismissal = Remaining KG – 8th grade students
- **Note:** the latest check-out time to sign out students is 2:00pm (11:00am on early dismissal days)

What options will be available for After Care next year?

Scheduled/Pre-Registered After Care will continue to be offered. Occasional care is being considered. More information and any rate changes will be announced once available.

Will there be sports and/or extracurricular events available next year?

TBD. We are unable to provide a definitive answer at the current time but are hopeful that some events will be able to occur pending guidance and consultation through CDC guidelines, school district, health department, and Tampa General Hospital.