

Dear German International School Community,

In anticipation of offering in-person and on-campus instruction, please take the time to read this letter, sign it, and return electronically.

As you are certainly aware, COVID-19 is a novel and extremely contagious communicable illness that is believed to be spread through person-to-person interactions. COVID-19 can cause symptoms in any infected individual, though data strongly indicates that older individuals and those with existing medical conditions are at a significantly higher risk of developing severe symptoms and complications. Not all individuals infected with COVID-19 display any symptoms, but such individuals may nonetheless be contagious and spread the infection. State and local authorities are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Maryland and in the Greater Washington, DC area, and have introduced mandatory quarantines, social distancing, and other safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

School leadership has reviewed guidance from the Maryland Department of Education (“DOE”) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), as well as guidance from numerous other leading health and education experts. In the past months, our leadership team has worked to develop appropriate policies and practices, and to implement modifications to our buildings and facilities. The safety of our students and employees is GISW’s primary concern, and thus our policies and protocols will meet – and may exceed – the safety requirements outlined in the CDC guidance.

Families and students should expect that the GISW experience will be (and will look) somewhat different than in past years. In addition to required social distancing measures and physical modifications to our campus and in classrooms, changes will also likely be required to many facets of our program, including the school day schedule, meal service, health services, and extracurricular activities. But as with seemingly everything during this pandemic, circumstances are changing rapidly and Maryland’s specific school reopening procedures for September may be updated. Before we will open the campus for in-person learning, we will provide families with more details on the programs we can offer and the safety policies and practices that will be required.

Although GISW will meet all applicable safety requirements, so long as COVID-19 continues to spread by community transmission and until there is an effective vaccine, *there will be a risk that students could become infected with COVID-19 despite the School’s efforts*. That risk extends to the families of students as well as others with whom the student may have contact.

By signing the acknowledgement following this letter, you agree to the following:

- You acknowledge and agree that despite GISW’s compliance with applicable reopening requirements, there is nonetheless a risk that your child could contract COVID-19 and/or become a symptomatic and/or asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19.
- You knowingly and voluntarily assume that risk on behalf of yourself and your child, as well as the risk that such infection could spread to other members of your child’s household or family, as well as others with whom the student may have contact.

We recognize that these are uncertain times, and we are committed to our mission of providing our students with an exceptional educational environment. Complying with the new health and safety guidance will require significant additional effort on the part of everyone involved – the school, our staff, students, and families. But we are eager to reopen and see everyone in person again, even if that means wearing masks and physically distancing. If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marc Aurel Löckmann
Acting Head of School

Signatures are required by parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the Student.

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read this letter, that I understand the risks inherent in my child attending GISW during the 2020-21 school year, and that by sending my child to GISW I accept those risks on behalf of myself, my child, and all household members.

Parent/Guardian 1	Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian 2	Signature	Date
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