



Dear Community School families,

First let me begin by thanking parents for keeping the lines of communication open. I am here always to answer and clarify your questions and concerns. Since the town hall meetings we have had some questions in regard to youth extracurriculars. Our Reopening Guidelines state,

*“Because of the need to keep students from interacting outside their homerooms, school sponsored athletics will not be offered. We encourage parents to avoid having their children interact outside homerooms in activities such as after school athletics. Other activities, such as school-sponsored Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be temporarily suspended until the crisis is past.”*

Extracurricular activities have been a large topic for our Health and Safety Task Force. Our biggest priority is to make decisions and guidelines for our school community so that we have **the greatest chance of remaining open and offering an in-person experience for students.** The school believes that families choosing to send their children to in-person school should avoid extracurricular activities when possible outside of school. Carpools, children interacting with children and adults outside Community School, and other factors all increase the chance that your child will contract Covid-19 if they participate in extracurriculars. This is the safest choice for our entire school community and allows the greatest chance for Community to remain open offering an in-person option.

We also know extracurriculars are important to some families, and therefore encourage families participating in extracurriculars to consider ways to minimize risk. Choosing lower-risk activities with less contact between children, and with adults who actively model safety procedures, might lessen the chance of infection. Families who wish to continue to participate in higher-risk extracurriculars are encouraged to consider the distance learning option. Ultimately this decision is for each individual family to make. We understand that there are some extracurricular activities that are safer than others, and there are ways to make safer decisions, such as not carpooling, and not allowing the mingling of children before and after the activity.

Please note that this guideline will be constantly reexamined and may be modified as information regarding the spread of Covid-19 evolves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Bob Cooke | Head of School