

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Concord Hill Families,

As we find ourselves in unprecedented times, it is reassuring to know there are things that you can still count on. When you chose Concord Hill, you chose a school that has been a leader in early childhood education since 1965, a school whose mission is to do what is best for our youngest. Providing a child his or her first schooling experience comes with the highest responsibility and the greatest opportunity to guide and inspire a child through the six most impactful years of his or her schooling career.

As we look to the 2020-2021 school year, you can continue to count on a faculty and staff who are experienced, passionate, life-long learners, ready to embrace whatever challenges lie ahead. I have been so proud of how our teachers have risen to the challenge of distance learning this year, learning new skills on the go, evolving and enhancing the learning experience week by week to connect, engage, and support our students and families.

You can count on a balanced and enriched program with exciting new changes in store. These include updates to our STEM program, as children in Kindergarten through Third Grade will now rotate through new Science, Technology, and Engineering units throughout the year. In an effort to further individualize the learning experience, there will be an expansion of specialty classes that are taught in half-classes.

Work is also underway articulating and aligning the social emotional curriculum, led by our Director of Social Emotional Learning, Lauren Huntley. We have also created a new role, and will soon introduce our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, who will help lead Concord Hill in this important work.

You can count on a true partnership. Not only is Concord Hill committed to ongoing open communication and collaboration, but new initiatives are in store as we implement a Partnering with Parents Program (PPP). This will include regular opportunities for parent education and dialogue with faculty, early childhood experts, and other CHS parents as we work together to navigate these formative years. As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child."

Now more than ever you can count on our small-by-design model to meet the evolving needs of our community. The challenges brought on by Covid-19 require CHS to adjust to new regulations to ensure the health and safety of our community throughout small class sizes and hone its abilities to provide the most effective and appropriate distance learning program, including frequent small group instruction. Our extremely low student-to-teacher ratio is ideal for these new realities. As a small school with 28 faculty and staff members serving 80-90 students, we are nimble and ready to respond in the best interests of our children and families whatever the circumstances may bring. This includes being ready to respond to the financial challenges that may be brought on by this crisis.

If your family is concerned about being able to meet the financial obligations for next year, please reach out to Susan Arzt, our Assistant Head of School and Director of Admission and Financial Aid, or to me. We recognize that each situation is unique, and we would like to explore ways to be of assistance, whether it be restructuring the tuition payment timelines or reevaluating your financial aid needs.

Lastly, you can continue to count on a remarkable community, whose generosity, joy, and commitment to celebrating childhood connects us all and binds us for a lifetime of special friendships. We are privileged to have your family's trust and support and I thank you again for choosing Concord Hill.

All the best,

**Nate Dennison**