

ROCKETSHIP

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Rocketeers,

We hope you are enjoying your summer, what a year! We are so proud of our entire Rocketship community for [the way that everyone stepped up with urgency](#) to give our Rocketeers quality distance learning instruction in the midst of a global pandemic. Way to go Rocketeers!

We know that there are still a lot of questions on how schools will be reopening next school year. Rest assured, our team of experts are working around the clock to make sure we are prepared for any scenario as we work with state, Metro, and district leaders to follow health, safety, and educational guidelines. We will be updating you on a weekly basis, starting now, until the beginning of school.

Your input is incredibly valuable to help inform our decisions for next year. Thank you to all of our parents who completed our Return-to-School Family Survey and participated in our Town Halls.

Here are a few key updates to share with you:

- **Save the Date:** Mark your calendars, because school starts for kinders on July 27th, for fourth graders on July 30th, and for all other grades on August 3rd! Visit the [Nashville COVID-19 webpage](#) for the 20/21 school calendar. We will continue to post key updates on this page as well as Kinder Camp and Orientation dates. These will also be posted in school Facebook groups.
- **Weekly Communication:** On our family survey, the vast majority of families asked to be updated on a weekly basis by email. Moving forward, we are going to be sending you weekly emails and texts with information on next school year, reopening updates, and other important info. We'll also be posting these communications in school Facebook groups - be sure to join your school's [Facebook group](#) if you haven't already. Additionally, we will continue holding weekly community meetings on Facebook.
- **Preparing for the 20.21 Re-Opening:** Governor Lee has just extended the state of emergency until August 29th. This is a big turn of events. During the week of July 6th, we will share our final decision to either open our buildings with distance learning options or to start the year with 100% distance learning. **In either case, we will be prepared.** Research from The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently stated "that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020." While Rocketship Tennessee believes that having students in our

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buildings for in- person instruction will provide the best instruction-- **we want to do so safely and in accordance with local guidelines.**

- **New Health & Safety Measures:** Over the last two months, we have been consulting with national and local public health professionals, reviewing CDC guidelines, and evaluating how school systems in other countries have successfully reopened campuses. We are developing new systems and protocols that create multiple layers of protection to reduce the risk of Covid-19 on our campuses while also creating the excellent learning experience that our Rocketeers deserve. We'll be sharing much more detail on our health and safety plans next week, so stay tuned.
- **Reminder—Transportation & Technology Online Registration Form Due by Friday:** On Monday, you should have received a link to your school's online registration form for transportation and technology. We need every family to complete this form by Friday. If you meet the deadline, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Kroger card or \$50 Visa gift card.

Future Updates:

- Detailed reopening plan
- Kinder camp and orientation dates
- Health and safety protocols and procedures
- Child-friendly resources on what to expect at school next year

Sincerely,

James Robinson
Director of Schools