



December 29, 2021

Dear Parents and Families:

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued on and with the onset of the omicron variant, Kingsway Learning Center has continued to chart a course that balances the health and safety of our community with the learning needs of our students. As you have likely noticed, we have recently had a sharp increase in cases of COVID-19 within the Kingsway community, mirroring the sharp increase in cases in our region. To further underscore the seriousness of what we are facing together, Kingsway also recently lost a staff member to COVID-19, which is taking a toll on all of us as we continue to navigate this situation.

As a result of this increase in cases and the required isolation and quarantine periods that accompany those cases, we have made the difficult decision, in consultation with our local Department of Health, to move to fully-remote instruction for the week of January 3. Based on what we know right now, we simply will not have the personnel available to safely staff the school next week. It is our intention to return to in-person learning the week of January 10, assuming we have the staffing levels to do so safely. Kingsway staff will be in touch with you regarding the logistics of remote learning and a schedule for the week.

We know this decision will pose an inconvenience and hardship for many and that remote learning cannot replace the benefits of in-person learning for our students. While this is not a position any of us wanted to be in at this point in the pandemic, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this situation together as a community.

There are also a few practical notes and updates with regard to our COVID-19 response:

- **Quarantine/isolation periods:** You may have seen that the CDC changed its general isolation and quarantine guidance for positive cases and close contacts. *Please note: the NJ Department of Health has not changed its guidance for schools at this time, and Kingsway will continue to follow the guidance from the NJ Department of Health (which includes a ten-day isolation for positive cases and a ten-day quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts, with an option to test and return after seven days).*
- **Testing:** NJ Department of Health guidance for schools also stipulates that at-home tests *cannot* be used to determine whether symptomatic individuals can return to school or to shorten a quarantine from ten to seven days after exposure to a positive case. A PCR test administered by a healthcare professional is the most accurate form of testing.

We look forward to returning to our normal operations as soon as our staffing levels allow us to do so safely, and thank you for your understanding during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Chan".

Rachel Chan
Chief Executive Officer