Dear Team & Family,

I'm writing with an update on our reopening plans for Second Semester and beyond.

Thank you so much for completing our survey last week. Based upon the current public health data, we have made the temporary decision to pause on our phased reopening plan.

Moving forward, we will begin the process of implementing our phased reopening plan for scholars when we have seen case rates decline over a three week period.

We will begin to look at trends in data beginning the week of January 18, 2021. We remain hopeful that our volunteer small group pilot will begin in February.

While we have done incredible work to date, there are still opportunities for us to grow. We know that our engagement with virtual learning can improve to ensure that we are reaching 100% of our scholars. As one of our teachers noted on the recent staff survey, we need to find "ways to ensure all stakeholders (scholars, families, students) feel sustained as we look forward and plan for work ahead needed to compensate for the current and previous school year."

As we move into 2021, we must all commit to finding ways to operate safely, raise our collective bar of excellence, and ensure that each and every scholar gets the support and education that they deserve. Together, as a team and family, I know we will continue to grow and support each other through these unprecedented times.

With gratitude,

Kinnari Patel - Smyth Executive Director