

Summer greetings!  
We are in the midst of planning for our 2021-22 school year and wanted to share some updates and information with you.  
   
Tamarack's Leadership Team recently met to review the updated COVID-19 guidelines from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), along with current reports on positive cases of COVID-19 and the Delta variant. Until a vaccine becomes available for our students under 12 years of age, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our school community. When we return to school in September, we will continue to use our health and safety protocols that we implemented in the spring. Our full plan can be found on our website www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

**The following are important to point out:**

* All students, faculty, staff will wear face masks while in the building. Anyone who enters our building will need to wear a face mask. We will consider allowing unmasking while outdoors as we get closer to the start of school.
* Students will stay with their class cohort during the school day and not mix with other groups or classes.
* Student desks and chairs will be placed at least 3 feet apart, and social distancing will be followed in the building and outdoors.
* Classrooms will be ventilated by opening doors and windows, and the use of ceiling fans and HEPA air purifier units.
* Cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and shared building spaces will continue throughout the school day.
* Hand hygiene reminders and protocols will continue.
* Students and staff must remain home if sick or have symptoms.
* All other COVID-19 prevention strategies will remain critical and practiced protecting the students, faculty and staff.

**Changes we are making:**

* **We will not be offering Distance Learning in the fall.** This option will only be put in place should a class or the school need to close because of an outbreak.
* We will no longer take temperatures each morning at drop off, but we will encourage families to remain vigilant in doing symptom and temperature checks of their student before school each day.
* Movement/Physical Education will return in the fall, with classes being held outside as weather permits, and in the community hall when needed.
* The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music will return with Music Appreciation for grades 1-3, and Ukulele instruction for grades 4-8.
* All school assemblies, festivals, and class plays will take place outdoors. We will reevaluate bringing them indoors during the second half of the school year.
* Walking field trips and use of Urban Ecology Center programing will take place in the fall. We will revisit driving and having chaperones in the second half of the school year.
* Back to school picnics and home visits will take place outdoors. We encourage social distancing and wearing of face masks by all.
* Parent Teacher Conferences will take place in person, with phone or video options offered if requested by individual families. Class meetings will take place virtually or outdoors.

**Forms and Fees Days**

Next week Wednesday through Thursday will be our annual Forms and Fees Days. Forms will be available online through BigSIS, and we will provide a link to them next week. You may complete the forms at home or come into Tamarack and use one the computers we will have set up. All student fees will need to be paid in person by check, cash, or credit card. If using a credit card, a small fee will be attached to help off set the fees the school incurs by the credit company. Further information will be sent out, so please watch for it. Please note that student forms must be completed and fees paid in order for the student to attend school at Tamarack.

**Musical Instrument Needed for Grades 4-8**

New this year! We will partner with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music to bring Ukulele instruction to our 4th through 8th graders. All students in grades 4-8 are required to purchase or rent their own Ukulele to use during the school year. We are working with Brass Bell Music Store who will provide further information on the purchase or rental of the instrument. Please stay tuned for further information on the different options for purchasing or renting this instrument for your student.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or your class teacher. I can be reached at 414-277-0009 or [lora.poulos@tamarackwaldorf.org](mailto:lora.poulos@tamarackwaldorf.org)

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to our 2021-22 school year. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year!



Lora Poulos

Administrative Director