

# MACDOWELL

PREPARATORY ★ ACADEMY

September 7, 2021

Dear MacDowell Scholars and Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We're so excited to welcome you back to school! It is an honor to have the opportunity to educate the young people you have entrusted to us, and we are grateful and humbled that you're a part of the MacDowell family.

I have a few important updates to provide you with, so please read this message in full:

1. Covid-19 Safety Protocols: We are, first and foremost, committed to the safety of our scholars and staff. In that, everyone, regardless of vaccination status, is asked to wear masks 100% of the time in school, with the only exception being while eating. Staff has been instructed to discuss with scholars the importance of practicing good hand hygiene (washing hands with soap and water when possible, using hand sanitizer when not), limiting physical contact, and promoting social distancing.
2. Arrival/Dismissal: The hours for the MacDowell school day are from 8:30am-3:40pm, EXCEPT Wednesdays. We have an abbreviated schedule each Wednesday, starting tomorrow (September 8, 2021), and those school hours are 8:30am-1:15pm.
  - a. The doors of the school will open for breakfast at 8am each day, and all scholars are welcome. Grades K-2 grade will each eat breakfast in their classrooms in an effort to limit capacity in the cafeteria and promote social distancing.
  - b. Dismissal each day begins at 3:40pm, except again on Wednesdays (dismissal at 1:15pm). Please commit to picking up with your child(ren) on time. K-2 will be dismissed at the Outer Drive door closest to Mendota St, grades 3-5 will be dismissed at the Outer Drive door closest to Birwood St, and grades 6-8 will be dismissed at the Birwood exit. Bus riders will be dismissed at the Mendota exit.
    - i. PLEASE keep an eye on the one way signs during arrival and dismissal!
3. Staffing and Buses: In the spirit of transparency, it's important that you're aware that MacDowell is not immune to the nationwide school staff and bus driver shortages. We're working diligently to hire the best, most qualified personnel to consistently provide a high-quality education. We apologize for the inconvenience of not being able to provide bus service this week. As soon as we have an update, I assure you we will alert you. We appreciate your patience, flexibility and grace as we continuously navigate the aftereffects of this pandemic in an effort to serve you.

In Solidarity,

Dr. Terrance Scott

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