



August 23, 2022

Dear Japhet School Community ~

As we open our doors to begin the 2022-2023 school year, it will be with great pride that we celebrate our 50th year of educating children through our mission *to nurture and prepare each child for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program*. Character, academics and leadership are the hallmarks of a Japhet education.

The health and safety of everyone ~ our teachers, students, staff and family members ~ remains at the heart of Japhet's planning and preparation for the 2022-2023 academic year. It's important that our educational environment is one in which students and staff alike are able to grow and flourish. It's clear that communities have changed over the last three years, and the manner in which we regard our health and safety has become even more important. Our goal this year is to review our past school activities that include field trips, community events and meetings and look at them with a fresh perspective. We are hopeful that some of our traditional events that are cherished by the Japhet community may return with a new look and freshness.

Using the Golden Rule as our guide, treating others the way we want to be treated, we expect that all families will make responsible decisions about their health with the understanding that personal decisions impact the welfare of others. This year parents will be expected to complete electronically prior to students entering the building the **Daily Attendance Questionnaire** for their children. A much simpler form, it provides Japhet with necessary information for reporting student attendance.

Our 2021-2022 Daily Wellness Questionnaire, completed by parents electronically prior to students entering the building, is discontinued. Students, faculty and staff and family members entering the building are encouraged to self-assess for symptoms prior to entering. Do not enter the building if you are ill. To best serve our community we will adhere to the following protocols provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services:

Students, faculty or staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) should inform the school office and isolate regardless of vaccination status:

- Isolate at home for the first five days (starting with the day after symptoms began or day after test was taken for those without symptoms); and
- If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, return to normal activities, while wearing a well-fitted mask, for the next five days to protect others; and
- If an individual has a fever, stay home until fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications for a period of 24 hours prior to returning to school and wear a well-fitted mask until the 10 day period is complete; or
- Isolate at home for 10 days if unable to wear a mask.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we move forward with our 2022-2023 academic year. I look forward to welcoming you at our Meet and Greet event on Thursday afternoon, September 1 from 4-6PM. We have many new families being welcomed into the Japhet community. I look forward to meeting each one of you and celebrating the beginning of the 50th year of serving our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerri G. Vizena".

Kerri G. Vizena  
Head of School