



SAVANNAH CLASSICAL ACADEMY K-12 CHARTER SCHOOL

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October 21, 2020

Good Afternoon Spartan Families,

I hope you are doing well. As you know SCA has been managing both the virtual and on-campus models since the start of the school year, August 19th.

SCA began with only about thirty percent of our students on campus. We are just over two months into the school year and now have almost seventy percent of students on campus with others reporting to on-campus learning each week.

We have limited capacity for continuing both instructional models. Teachers and administrators are having to manage both models and it is compromising the effectiveness of both due to the requirements of each. We have reviewed the current progress of students mastering course content in both settings. After the review we have affirmed most students in both models are having difficulty mastering course content. Managing the two models is reducing the effectiveness and quality of education we can provide to our students.

In tandem with this review of our current instructional models, SCA has been communicating with the Savannah Chatham County Public School System (District) on our transportation needs. The District is still paying all driver's full salaries but not providing full transportation services to schools. In our efforts to negotiate with the District for transportation services we were provided a cost of \$2858.13 per day for less than 140 students. The daily cost breakdown per route is \$34/hour for the driver, \$2.52/mile, and \$34/day for cleaning. This would be a cost of \$85,743.90 per month or just over \$500,000.00 for the rest of the year. SCA's annual budget is about \$4 million. Simply, SCA does not have the funds to budget for this high cost transportation service. Although SCA will not be able to pay the District for transportation services, some students will be provided transportation services by the District at no cost to SCA as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). You may see these buses on campus during morning drop off and afternoon dismissal.

Knowing SCA students and staff are having difficulty continuing both models of instruction, we have made the decision to only offer on-campus instruction. This update to our instructional model will become effective November 2nd, 2020. The last day of SCA's virtual model will be October 30th, 2020. The District will not provide transportation to SCA as it has historically for all District students. SCA families will need to arrange for transportation to and from school. SCA is still providing fuel cards to families each Friday for those that need it. The Chatham Area Transit (CAT) system is currently free for all riders and may be an option for some.

We are aware some families are still seeking virtual options and may not return to SCA for on-campus learning. It is not our desire for students to leave SCA; sadly, we know some will. For families that still need or desire a virtual option, our counselors Ms. Eckhart and Ms. Brooks can provide you with a few virtual schools you may wish to consider along with your child's zoned school for enrollment options.



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These updates may cause you to have new questions and a need for a refresher on some elements of our safety procedures and protocols. We will send an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and we encourage you to visit our website for current safety protocols. Our protocols are stringent. I am pleased to report to you as of this letter, SCA has not had any positive cases of COVID-19 among students and staff. Thank you for all you are doing to support our safety.

When virtual students in grades 3-12 return they will not have a teacher change. Students in grades K-2 may have a teacher change that will result in much smaller class sizes. SCA will continue to seek opportunities to lead and foster innovation. The service model change will have very favorable updates to our instructional programs for students and staff. As always, we are thankful for all our families that have entrusted us with your children particularly during this time. Good health to all of us! You may reach out to me directly via text message (912) 441-2913 (please identify yourself in the text so I may respond) or by email b.lollis@scasav.org

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry K. Lollis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Barry K. Lollis
Executive Director