



# UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Universal Alcorn • Universal Audenried • Universal Bluford  
Universal Creighton • Universal Daroff • Universal Institute • Universal Vare

November 2, 2020

Dear Universal Families,

Thank you for your time, dedication, support, and flexibility as valued partners in your child's education during the virtual school reopening in September. Deciding on a 100% virtual instruction model was not an easy decision, nor was it taken lightly. Universal's plan continues to be to open schools in a hybrid, and eventually in a 100% in-person, model when it is most safe to do so. Increasing the likelihood of scholars, families, and staff remaining COVID-19 free is our first priority. To that end, Universal schools will continue to provide 100% virtual instruction until approximately the end of the second term. **Assuming that conditions will be safe for our scholars and staff to return in person, hybrid instruction will begin on January 25, 2021.**

During these first months of the school year, we all experienced some discomfort while learning virtually. Nonetheless, I am thoroughly impressed with the way everyone is coming together to ensure that our scholars succeed. We will continue to review and monitor the COVID-19 data in the city and state as well as across the nation. The work groups that provided input for our reopening decision continue to develop plans which focus on safety and health for the next phase. Our goal is to remain transparent and to communicate in a timely manner regarding school reopening decisions.

Let's continue to do our part to keep everyone safe. As always, follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Wash your hands with water and soap.
- Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Stay at least six feet from others.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Monitor your health daily.

I am proud of all the work our families are doing, alongside teachers, to create a meaningful learning environment for scholars at home. Helping children navigate school during a global pandemic is not easy, but I can tell that you are rising to the occasion.

Please continue communicating with your school, learning technology tools, and engaging with your children about their virtual education. It truly does take a village to raise a child, perhaps now more than ever. We are here for you and thank you for again for your commitment and partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Nixon  
Superintendent/CEO

Universal Central Education Office | 215.391.4161 [phone] | 267.758.5701 [fax]  
1427 Catharine Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19146 | [www.universalfamilyofschools.org](http://www.universalfamilyofschools.org)

*Improving Communities...Changing Lives*