



# UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

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

February 18, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

I would like to bring your attention to Universal's response to the recently updated school reopening guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We regularly monitor data from the CDC, PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education, and the City of Philadelphia's Health Department. Philadelphia's COVID-19 transmission rate has been categorized as "substantial" since the week of October 23, 2020, rendering us unable to reopen our buildings at this time. Classes will remain on a virtual platform until it is safe to reconvene in person.

We are eager for the time when COVID-19 transmission rates become and remain consistently low, which will enable us to reopen our buildings. The good news is that, as we wait for that time, substantial progress is being made. Next week, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) will begin to vaccinate our schools' staff. Universal has contracted with several school ventilation companies to make HVAC modifications to ensure proper airflow within our buildings.

On March 13, it will be one year since schools across Pennsylvania began the transition to virtual learning. Although it has been a challenging time for each of us, we have gotten through this far together. We have rounded the curve, and now light shines at the end of this tunnel. Together, we will get through the time that remains in this pandemic.

Yours Truly,

Dr. Penny Nixon  
Superintendent/CEO of Universal Schools