



**International
School**
Los Angeles
**Lycée
International**

From: LILA Head of School
Date: Friday, July 10, 2020 at 10:30 AM
Subject: Back-to-school update for 2020-2021

Dear LILA community,

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

Campuses
Burbank
Los Feliz
Orange County
Pasadena
West Valley

Against a worrisome backdrop of surging coronavirus cases locally and nationally, coupled with the endless and often confounding political rhetoric in the media, I shall endeavor to update you on LILA's current considerations regarding back-to-school in the fall. The road to a return to school continues to be a complex one.

At this time, there has been no official guidance from the counties and the cities that preside over our campuses as to whether or not we can in fact welcome students back in person in the fall. It is our fervent hope that we will be able to do so; a hope shared by the majority of our community. We are of the profound conviction that the social-emotional benefits of an in-person return, as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, are significant in terms of the overall well-being of our students. We know too that you are keen to get back to your lives and rely on our school being able to welcome your children back so that you can do precisely that. We understand equally the interplay between these factors.

With this said, the health and physical well-being considerations of our students, families, faculty and staff are hugely significant. The reality is that there are many vulnerable people within our LILA community, as indeed there are in the wider community. It is therefore imperative that we take care of those who are in our care. At the same time, many of you have communicated an increasing reluctance to send your children back to school, even if we are able to open our doors in the fall. We hear you and respect that position too.

Our school leadership team continues to monitor the situation on a daily basis. We share the same challenges as many schools, irrespective of size, type and location. We understand that we will need to provide some flexibility to families and employees who are simply unable or, in some cases, prefer not to return to school in person at this time. For you, remote options will continue to be provided.

We appreciate that remote learning has been exasperating for the families of our youngest students in Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. That is not to say that there have not been challenges elsewhere; however, we know that these have been most acutely felt by families with children who are not yet

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autonomous enough to be learning remotely. Many of you have told us that ongoing e-Learning for our youngest students will be untenable from your perspective. We therefore remain committed to bringing back our youngest students in person 5 days per week. If we cannot do so, we know that we will need to rethink our provision and delivery for these grades.

The purpose of this message is not so much to revisit the various back-to-school scenarios communicated in my last message which can be [accessed here](#). Scenarios 2 or 3 seem most probable at this time. My main aim in writing is to apprise you of the considerations we are carefully weighing up at this time.

Finally, I did want to share some absolutely wonderful news – I know we can all do with some! Our LILA Class of 2020 has excelled academically. 100% of our French *bac* students achieved their *bac*, every single student having done so with honors (*avec mention*). 50% of the cohort of 12 achieved the highest honors (*mention très bien*). This cohort was also our first ever to take the *Option internationale du bac*, known as the OIB. Similarly, the IB Diploma results have just been released and 100% of our students who attempted the IB Diploma achieved it, with 77% having earned the prestigious bilingual diploma. Their class mean, 33/45, was a full 3 points higher than the world mean of 30. These are the best IB results the school has seen for years. Bravo to our Class of 2020!

I will be in touch again shortly.

Sincerely,

Michael Maniska
Head of School