

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

We are thrilled to welcome all of you back for the 2020-2021 school year. I hope the summer break is going well and, despite the unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you are finding ways to relax, recharge and remain connected to family and friends. As we open the school year, AISV is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all staff, students and families. In order to ensure that safety and wellbeing, we are limiting campus access to students and staff. If you would like to meet with a staff member, please set up a virtual or in-person meeting by emailing the receptionist at [receptionist@aisv.lt](mailto:receptionist@aisv.lt).

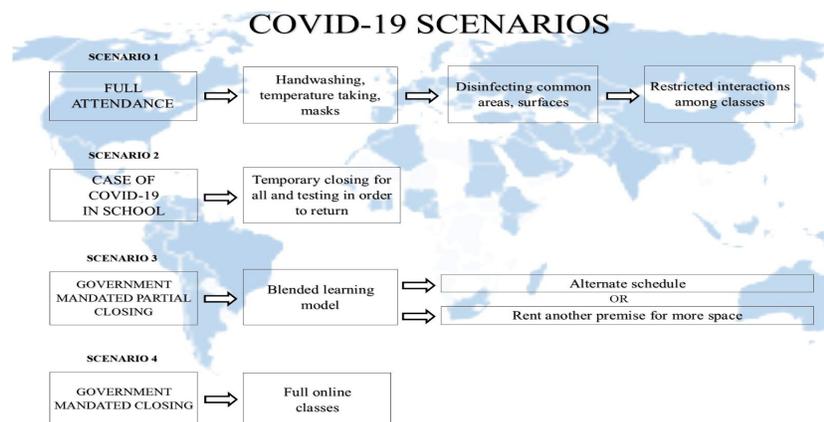
While our teachers and students enjoy some well-deserved time off from school, our Senior Leadership Team has been planning for the start of the new school year. Our plan for the 2020–21 school year is to maximize face-to-face instruction within the context of community health as well as any governmental constraints. During the quarantine from March to June, we experienced that this is the optimal mode of instruction for students, faculty and parents.

As we open the 2020-21 school year, we continue to collaborate with authorities and other schools to respond to the ongoing situation. It is our commitment to keep you informed. Please look for the *AISV Response to COVID Playbook* as we get closer to the opening of school. We will continue to base our programmatic and operational decisions on:

- Announcements and decisions of the Lithuanian government and the Municipality of Vilnius.
- The health and safety of students and staff.
- The continued learning of our students.

Please understand that our ability to have our campus open for face-to-face instruction as much as possible will depend greatly on the actions of our entire community— students, parents and staff alike. We all have a personal responsibility to do our part to try to stay healthy and help others stay healthy. This includes following the recommendations of the government, wearing masks in public indoor places, staying home if we feel unwell, quarantining if there has been exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 and maintaining proper hand washing and other hygiene measures. If we all commit to do what is required, at home and at school, that will greatly increase the likelihood that our students can spend more time at AISV.

We are all eagerly awaiting the day when we can safely move beyond this pandemic and our lives return to normal. In the meantime, in order to protect the health and wellbeing of our AISV community while continuing to provide the outstanding educational environment you were seeking when you joined AISV, we have developed responses to the following scenarios.



Our AISV **vision, mission, values and 2020-21 goals** will continue to guide our daily work and future planning. Please click on the links below to further read about the following:

- [AISV Guiding Statements](#)
- [2020-2021 School-wide Goals](#)

**Starting Dates:** [The 2020-2021 School Calendar](#) is available on the AISV website and is linked here.

**Wednesday, August 26 - First Day of School for Grades 6-12 (8:15 - 3:30)**

**Thursday, August 27 - First Day of School for Grade K-5 (8:15 - 3:30)**

**Friday, August 28 - First Day of School for PK 3 and PK 4 (8:15 - 3:30)**

**The PSA Annual BBQ will be rescheduled for a later date.**

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind:** AISV Reads is a project to make connections within our community, create a common experience and understanding, and develop thinking around a theme related to AISV values. We hope that you are enjoying your reading or - if you haven't started yet - that you enjoy it thoroughly. Some themes you may want to consider and discuss as a

family are service to community, problem solving, innovation and perseverance. Please note that there is a film version available on Netflix but this is significantly different from the book!

**New Student Orientation** will take place from **1:30 to 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**. Further details will be communicated to new families.

**Divisional Welcome Letters** will be emailed to families to inform you of division-specific information regarding the first week of school. If you require more information, please contact the Divisional Leaders: Robin MacArthur for Lower School at [rmacarthur@aisv.lt](mailto:rmacarthur@aisv.lt), Lauren Heil for Middle School at [lheil@aisv.lt](mailto:lheil@aisv.lt), Kelly Mejia for High School at [kmejia@aisv.lt](mailto:kmejia@aisv.lt).

**Community Handbook**

So you're up-to-date with how we do things at AISV, please be sure to review the Community Handbook. In the first weeks of school, we ask all parents to sign an agreement that they've read and agree to abide by the policies and procedures in it. The Community Handbook contains important information about our Green Campus, technology use, school clothing and attendance, etc. **All AISV Handbooks for 2020-2021 are available on the school website.**

**Café Ruz**

Café Ruz is a venue for parents to learn about educational trends, the social-emotional well-being of our students, and what is happening in our school. It also serves as an open forum for parents to ask questions. Due to the current situation we will hold the first Café Ruz as a Zoom meeting on Friday September 25, 2020 at 8:30 am.

**2020-2021 New Staff information**

We are very excited to welcome our new teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a very strong academic team that will complement our very competent returning staff.

<p><b>Karlie Brown</b> - Grade 1 teacher  <b>Guyline Draghi</b> - Marketing &amp; Communication  <b>Julien Draghi</b> - Grades 5-10 Physical Health Education  <b>Elizabeth Elger</b> - MS/HS Math  <b>Joseph Elger</b> - HS English, History and TOK  <b>Diego Fernandez</b> - IB English B and MS Spanish</p>	<p><b>Veronica Freel</b> - MS Science &amp; MS/HS Teaching Assistant  <b>Eric Hayes</b> - MS/HS Inclusive Education and HS Math  <b>Hans Hess</b> - MS/HS English Language Arts  <b>Melina Hess</b> - LS Inclusive Education  <b>Donatas Iliska</b> - IB Chemistry/HS Science  <b>Erin Sullivan</b> - Grade 2 teacher</p>
---	---

**Door-to-Door bus service:** The families that have registered for this service will receive the schedule in the very near future with drop-off and pick-up times for the first week of school. If you are interested in the bus service, please contact Ieva Vinciuñė at [administration@aisv.lt](mailto:administration@aisv.lt).

**The Annual Physical Examination Form:** All new students from PK through Grade 12 are required by the State to have a complete annual medical examination and to deliver the PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM to the AISV nurse by September 15th. In accordance with Lithuanian law, returning students have been granted an extension until December 31st. After this date, children without the forms will not be permitted to attend school until their forms have been submitted.

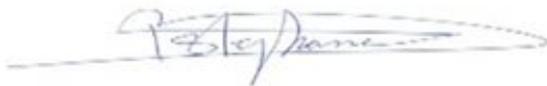
**AISV Communication:** Please read the AISV Weekly Agenda and regularly check the [AISV Facebook page](#). All of our handbooks, school calendar, and general information can be found on our AISV website at [www.aisv.lt](http://www.aisv.lt)

**School cafeteria:** Information regarding pre-ordering and payment procedures for lower school will be sent in a separate email. Menus will be sent monthly. Any student who does not wish to sign-up for the hot lunch program should bring his/her own lunch from home. Microwaves and one refrigerator are available for student use. We will follow the Lithuanian health and safety mandates in order to ensure a safe environment in the cafeteria.

**Copies of Enrollment Agreements** will be sent home with your student(s) during the first week of school for the families who have requested a copy.

We are looking forward to another successful year of active learning in our international community. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email at [ruz@aisv.lt](mailto:ruz@aisv.lt) or on my cell phone +37060063506.

Sincerely,



Stephane Ruz, AISV Director