

TAPA Ensemble -

I miss you. The TAPA Staff misses you. We ache for being together with the TAPA students, artists, and educators. We miss hallway chats and classroom discussions. We miss singing in the stairwell and ArtsFest. We miss the creativity, talent, joy and determination of the TAPA students. Our home “offices” (mine is the guest bedroom) pale in comparison to the vibrant life-filled classrooms of our downtown TAPA home.

In spite of this, longing isn't a scientific reason to abandon Distance Learning, which we're proud to say is working quite well. **In Q1, we maintained above 90% attendance rates and strong classroom engagement: one of the highest in the state!** Every day from 9am-3:20pm, the TAPA Stars showed up to class, engaged with lessons, projects, virtual activities, and classroom discussions, and we hope to do even better in Q2!

**Our success in teaching the arts via Distance Learning is being featured on the national stage!** Next Thursday, December 10th, TAPA will be presenting at the national *Emerson Collective Winter Gathering* to speak to leaders across the country on how caring, trusting relationships, and youth voice and choice, can keep teaching and learning engaging during a pandemic. Junior class students Pia Cardenas and Arianna Benoit will be presenting about their work in the theatre department, particularly around a recent project “Yo Vivo,” and will be joined by the wonderful theatre team of Rachel Nadeau and ShaLayla Simmons. TAPA's work in the arts in distance learning is being seen as a model for better practices, and people are excited to hear from our students and staff!

It all boils down to this: the Great TAPA Distance Learning Effort will continue until it is safe for students to come back in person. Right now, with COVID levels higher than they have ever been, there is no way to increase in-person meetings and ensure our students', staff members' and families' safety. We'll continue to do what we can in-person (outdoor socially distanced conversations, pickups and meetups), and keep planning for a future when we can do more face-to-face. At the end of the day, we will rise from this challenge stronger if we all are able to care for our health and the health of our families.

**As part of TAPA's effort to care for everyone in our Ensemble, we are collecting funds and food for Holiday Gifts and Food Baskets to be distributed in late December. If you or your family could use a food basket or gifts please let [Ms.Vidal](#) know.** This is a particularly hard time in a particularly hard year, and no one should be ashamed of accepting help. As an Ensemble, we are only as strong as our weakest link: let us help and strengthen you if we can.

Additionally, in order to make the holidays a little more merry -- and thanks to the relentless advocacy of TAPA 7th grader Maryam Alaje -- **we are lengthening our Winter Break to be two full weeks; it will begin on 12/21 and extend through until 1/1.** In other big calendar news, we'll be doing Arts Auditions for the TAPA Class of 2024 (the current 9th grade) in

February, to make up for the auditions that were cancelled due to the pandemic last spring. While these auditions will be online, we are making tentative plans for some more lively springtime arts events, including a drive in movie set up by a TAPA Class of 2016 Alum.

Be well, TAPA Ensemble. You are loved, and missed, very deeply by your school community.

- Elizabeth Richards-Hegnauer, Head of School

## 2020-2021 TAPA School Year Calendar - Quarter 2

*For THIS YEAR ONLY due to the RI Statewide Calendar, TAPA students and staff have a shorter school/work year than we traditionally do.*

### TAPA 2020-2021 Quarter Start and end dates

	Starts	Ends	Total days in the quarter
<b>Quarter 1</b>	Wed 9/9	Fri 11/13	45
<b>Quarter 2</b>	Mon 11/16	Fri 1/29	41
<b>Quarter 3</b>	Mon 2/01	Fri 4/16	49 (Note: 2/1-2/5 is Midterm Exams)
<b>Quarter 4</b>	Mon 4/26	Wed 6/23	42

January 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January	
1	New Year's Day - No School
12	TAPA Board of Directors Meeting
18	MLK Jr. Day
22	Arts Audition Video Entries Due (Class of 2024)
25	PD for Staff, Distance Learning for Students
29	End of Quarter 2
<i>19 school days for students/86 days to date</i>	

December 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December	
1	<a href="#">Admissions Application Open</a>
8	TAPA Board of Directors Meeting
9	Parent Ensemble Meeting - Virtual 5:30pm
14	PD for Staff, Distance Learning for Students
16	Parent Ensemble Meeting - Virtual 5:30pm
21-1/1	Winter Break

*14 school days for students/67 days to date*

February 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

February	
1-5	Midterm Exam Week
1-5	Arts Auditions Live Screening/Judging
8	Start of Quarter 3
9	TAPA Board of Directors Meeting
15-19	February Break
<i>15 school days for students/101 days to date</i>	