

Hello again TAPA families and community,

Last week, RI's Education Commissioner and Governor decided that the start of the 2020-2021 school year would be delayed for two weeks, making **the first day of school Monday, September 14th**. In alignment with the rest of the state, TAPA will be following this calendar.

The decision to delay the start of the school year has not changed that decision by our community ReOpening Committee. As we shared recently, the committee -- made up of students, parents, teachers and the admin team -- made the decision that the safest and most responsible way to start the 2020-21 school year will be by using a **Distance Learning model**, with limited partial in-person services for students as that becomes possible.

During the next few weeks, the teachers, staff, and admin team at TAPA will refine and rebuild our practices to engage students more meaningfully and rigorously in Distance Learning, filling in some of the gaps from last spring. From now until 9/4, we'll have two weeks of virtual PD for the whole TAPA teaching and artist community, to totally overhaul our quarter one curriculum for every class. There are huge differences between in-person learning and virtual learning, and [our Distance Learning schedule](#) looks substantially different than our in-person schedule.

The last week before students come back full time starts with two days off (Labor day, 9/7; Primary day, 9/8), and then **three days (9/9-9/11) that we'll be spending doing in-person, socially-distanced Student Orientation at The People's Parq** (formerly known as the Esek Hopkins Homestead). We will rotate small groups of (masked, distanced) students in-and-out throughout the day. This will serve as a time for students to pick up any needed tech and to meet their teachers for the year. Please keep an eye out for information about when your TAPA student needs to attend orientation.

Next week we have virtual info sessions open to all students and families to talk through the details of the distance learning plan. Please continue emailing us and sharing your thoughts and feedback, as well as plan to attend one of the info sessions. It truly means the world to us to have not just your trust but also your voices in this remarkable year to hold up and empower our TAPA community in what has been the most unique challenge our school has faced (and we have had more than our fair share!).

All the best,
The TAPA Admin Team

Info Sessions through Google Meet - Dates, Times, and Links:

[TUESDAY: August 25th, 3-4 pm](#)

[THURSDAY: August 27th, 5-6 pm](#)