



Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center

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July 27th, 2020

Dear Homeschool Families,

I hope you and your families are doing well and staying healthy!

I'm sure that many of you have questions about what measures that will be put in place at Fernbrook Farms this fall to ensure the safety and well-being of your children during our homeschool classes. Many of our procedures for homeschool classes follow the protocols we put in place for our summer camp and were guided by the CDC, NJ DOH, and EH&E. We have participated in several webinars with doctors, nurses, and health officials to ensure that we have fully understood the procedures before designing a protocol that reflects both their recommendations and Fernbrook Farms' programs.

To begin, we will use groups to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At Fernbrook Farms, our groups will be the Saplings, Pre-K/K, LLHS (up to three groups), and ULHS. Within each group, students will be organized by age and grade as we have in years past. Each group will be able to come together without masks but they will maintain social distance from other groups. While this will have an impact on how we structure a student's semester, it will not impact what is available to students or many of the Fernbrook Farms traditions that students love. For example, LLHS students will not come together as one community at the beginning of the day or for the end of semester jeopardy. But, we will get to utilize our pond, forest, meadow, creek, & more to engage with nature.

Next, we continue to make changes to our facilities to ensure the continued health and safety of our camp community. There will be additional hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer placed in and around the Education Center. We have also ordered extra sanitation supplies to increase the amount of times per day any shared surfaces are disinfected. As well, in the event of inclement weather, each group will have a designated indoor space that is their own.

Furthermore, we ask families & staff to do a self-screening process for 14 days prior to attending classes. We will send you a self-screening form that we will ask you to complete. We are all in this together and it is very important that we self-monitor and stay home if we are sick or experiencing even the subtlest of symptoms.

Finally, we will have specific drop-off/pick-up procedures and will communicate this to you directly. ***In particular, as of right now, families are not permitted to stay at Fernbrook Farms during classes.*** We love being able to share Fernbrook Farms with all of you but unfortunately, we are unable to do that safely right now. We hope you understand and thank you for your cooperation. The health and safety of our students is our priority.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email me.

Thank you,

Brian Kuser
Education Director

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