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June 15, 2020

TDS families

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this email finds you and your families safe and healthy.

I am reaching out to give you the latest updates on our planning for summer school programming. As you know from our recent Parent Association meeting and in hearing from your child's social worker, we are continuing to gather available information from many sources in order to provide safe effective programming.

We agree with state's decision to allow for in-person learning for the special needs population and believe that face-to-face instruction and supports are best for special needs children. We know the importance of continued instruction to alleviate the "summer slide" causing students to lose academic ground, and the behavior regression that can happen for many children. It is in the best interest of our students to return to Green Chimneys.

Although there are still many more questions than answers on the details of how this will all happen we are clear on the following:

- In-person education will resume at Green Chimneys School beginning July 13, 2020.
- Virtual education will continue to be in place after break for the week of July 6.

We realize, however, that some families have challenges and circumstances that will make this difficult. We will work with you to ensure your child continues to receive the summer education programming that is vital to their success with virtual education as needed. We will have a protocol in place soon to work with parents on their needs, until then **this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDSsummer> will help us gather the necessary information from you to plan ahead. Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience.**

We are currently reaching out to school districts to assess transportation availability and will communicate with you as we receive more information.

Meanwhile we are creating departmental work groups to establish plans and protocols for issues relating to scheduling, classroom set up, safety procedures, services, etc. These plans will provide input to an overall agency blueprint, which will guide our summer programming. The safety of your children is of utmost importance and we will take every reasonable precaution to protect their health and safety and that of our staff.

I will be updating you regularly over the next few weeks as we gather more information from the state level, all the way to individual school districts and families.

Thank you for your patience and continued collaboration while we navigate through all these changes. We look forward to seeing your children and welcoming them back.

Sincerely,

Edward Placke
Executive Director

