

Letter From The Upper School Principal

Great Start, and Great Expectations!!!

Although we may not be starting the school year as expected, “back physically on campus”, our overall goal remains to keep your children safe and the school open during the COVID-19 pandemic -- providing uninterrupted educational services -- whether they are in-person or temporarily online. We thank everybody in our community for your **unwavering support** in making that possible.

Distance Learning

In order to ensure the overall health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, the International School of Ouagadougou (like most International Schools) will do distance learning for the week of January 11th- 15th. Classes will resume in person on Monday January 18th.

I want to thank the parents who joined me by Zoom on December 16th to discuss, both this theme, and other issues related to an increase in the overall Coronavirus cases in the country. The school’s announcement on Thursday, January 7th, was in part based on the following “mitigating factors”:

A. There is a testing shortage of PCR tests right now in Burkina Faso. Many places now require 50,000 CFA for a test. The average wait time *seems to be 3 - 5 days to get results.*

B. Regardless of people coming from International destinations, there is a spike among active Coronavirus cases **here** in Burkina Faso. At least one of our students, one of our teachers, and a family member of another one of our teachers have tested positive during the break. There most likely were more, however, those are the only ones I have direct knowledge of.

C. A health advisor to a member of our Board of Trustees factually stated: "***Given the international travel, it's a very sound idea to start out with a virtual week. Approximately 97% of people will show signs of COVID by day 11 after exposure, so pretty good odds folks might know. The asymptomatic folks are where it gets tricky – so the extra virtual time gives you some distance.***"

D. We already know that some students are arriving late, and we will have a "**decision point**" to make regarding when it should be ***safe and appropriate for them to return to campus.***

As one member of our parent community wrote me personally:

“Thank you for the message, not good, but necessary and hopefully effective in achieving the higher goal of 19 uninterrupted weeks subsequently.”

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When a community works together, we can accomplish almost anything. Let's hope this investment in keeping us all safe, will pay dividends as it did at the start of the year, in allowing us to remain "mask to mask" and physically on campus for the rest of this school year.

Upper School Distance Learning Tips

Lessons and directions for the week will be sent to parents and students via PlusPortals. Upper School will follow more or less the normal student schedule:

- Students are welcome to work at their own pace
- Each class will have at least one virtual meeting per week

Teachers (and teaching assistants) will be available to answer questions via email and to facilitate one on-one virtual meetings, upon request, when additional support is needed.

Report Cards & Semester II Syllabus

Over the next two weeks, teachers and students will be busy completing projects and doing summative assessments in all subject areas, in preparation for the upcoming Semester 1 report cards. These detailed Semester reports will be sent home in **February** and in **June** for every student, and will provide you with important information about your child's growth and areas that are in need of improvement.

This semester, we plan to have report cards sent via PlusPortals on Friday February 5th, 2021. This will be in addition to your student's second semester syllabus (program of study).

Please take time to read and discuss the report with your child and feel free to contact specific teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

Once again, it is great to be back and I look forward to seeing all our students physically here on campus next week.

Jeff Trudeau
Upper School Principal and Director.



"Remember when this was the only thing that kept us inside?"

Letter From The Elementary School Principal



Dear Elementary School Families,

Happy new year! A great tradition of entering the new year is setting goals and objectives and this is no exception for the students at ISO. Please take some time to discuss accomplishments and areas of growth with your children as they conclude the second quarter and begin the third quarter of this academic year. Regular reflection and goal setting is imperative for the on-going process of developing a growth mindset and provides students with an opportunity to celebrate their many successes.

Distance Learning:

In order to ensure the overall health and safety of students faculty we will do distance learning for the week of January 11- 15th. Class will resume in person on Monday January 18th. Please remember the following in regards to distance learning:

- Lessons and directions for the week will be sent to parents and students via Plus Portals no later than Monday at 10:00am.
- Students are welcome to work at their own pace.
- Each class will have at least one virtual meeting per week.
- Teachers and teaching assistants are available to answer questions via email and to facilitate one on one virtual meetings upon request when additional support is needed.

Report Cards:

Over the next two weeks teachers and students will be busy completing projects and doing summative assessments in all subject areas, in preparation for the upcoming Semester 1 report cards. These summative, detailed reports will be sent home in February and in June for every child and will provide you with important information about your child's growth and areas that are in need of improvement. **Report cards will be sent via Plus Portals on Friday February 5th, 2021.** Please take time to read and discuss the report with your child and feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

School-wide Field Day:

ISO students and teachers will participate in a school wide field day on Tuesday January 26th from 8am until 12noon. Students will be dismissed at 12:00pm. Please make the proper pick up arrangements for your child to be picked up promptly at 12:00pm.

Thank you,

Ms. Mixon
Associate Elementary School Principal