

July 9, 2020

Dear New Students, Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well during this unprecedented time. This week we have begun the process of opening our campus with our modified summer camp program. It has been wonderful to see the faces of young people enjoying our campus and each other. We continue to work on plans to open school in the fall in a manner that will keep us safe, engaged, and connected to one another and the community as a whole. We will be inviting your feedback to inform our planning in a brief survey which we will send out next week. We expect to share more of our plans in the weeks ahead. For now, I am writing to share with you information about courses, summer work, and book purchasing.

At the end of this letter, you will see a list of full-credit, required courses, by trimester, in which you are enrolled for the 2020–2021 academic year. We are not including full-credit elective and H block courses at this time in order to allow for as much flexibility with scheduling as possible given the uncertainties that remain with our fall planning. Our goal is for all students to receive a more complete course listing, including enrollment in elective and H Block courses, as well as a detailed schedule of all courses, including names of teachers, at the start of the school year during new student orientation in September.

The courses listed below include your relevant placements in mathematics, language, and for transfer students, science. These placements were determined by the relevant department based on your academic record, recommendations from your previous school, standardized test scores, and your performance on our placement tests. If you have questions about the specific placements, please contact the department chair via e-mail. Language Department: Andrea Richards at arichards@pingree.org; Mathematics Department: Eric Olson at eolson@pingree.org; Science Department: Rob VanTuyl at rvantuyl@pingree.org. For questions about specific courses, please refer to the [course description guide](#) found under the Academics tab on the Pingree website.

Students will be expected to complete summer work prior to the start of classes. All students will have summer reading in English and history, new students will have to do a brief TI-83/84 graphing calculator tutorial, and some students may have additional summer work in math, language, and science depending on course placement. [A summary of relevant summer work and summer reading can be found here.](#) More detailed information about summer work is available to students via the [student portal](#), which can be accessed by clicking “students” on the bottom of the drop-down menu on the Pingree website or by visiting www.pingree.org/students. As a part of our efforts to better understand systemic racism in our country and to build a more deliberately antiracist curriculum, we are requiring that all students, faculty, and staff read the book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You*, by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds. The book is listed as required summer reading by the department that will assess and embed it in their curriculum (history or English department depending on grade level). Because this book will be read by all students and it is currently out of stock in most places, we will provide every student with a copy by mail. We strongly

encourage parents to read the book as well and we look forward to your participation in our discussions about the book in the fall.

Students will also be expected to have the assigned books necessary for each course. A complete list of course books is available in our student and parent portals. The [summer work document](#) also includes information about book lists, Follett Books (our on-line book provider), and other book source options. Please reference the [list](#) on our website for accurate editions and ISBNs when purchasing course books and be aware that not all courses require purchasing books at this time.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Pingree community. In addition to updates on pandemic planning and reopening school in the fall, we will also share a more detailed summer mailing in August with specific information about the start of the school year including details about new student orientation. In the meantime, we want to share with you some additional information you may find helpful prior to the August mailing.

Parent/Student Portals and Technology Information

By now, new parents should have received an email about accessing our Parent Portal. Some of the information referenced in this letter will be available via the [student portal](#) and [parent portal](#). Please be aware that some links on the portals may not yet be active for new families.

Our X:1 program requires that all students bring a device that meets minimum requirements to school every day. [More information about our X:1 program](#), including minimum requirements, can be found in the parent portal. All new students will receive training, account setup, and wireless network connection during new student orientation. New students will also be given access to a Pingree email account at that time. Pingree uses Google (G Suite for Education) for email and other collaborative tools. Google's tools are browser-based, accessible on any internet-connected device, and do not require software installation. If you have questions regarding technology at Pingree, our X:1 program, or accessing the Parent Portal, please contact Bob Ogden at bogden@pingree.org.

Health Forms

Medical forms, DUE BY AUGUST 1, 2020, are required for students to participate in any Pingree activity including orientation events. All health and permission forms must be dated within 13 months to be considered current (the student's doctor's physical forms are accepted). To access *online forms found in your student's electronic medical record*, sign into the Pingree Parent Portal and click on the Health Information tab. Need help with your health forms? Please contact Magnus directly at 1-877-461-6831. Have questions about your student's health? Please contact Allyson Larsen by email (alarsen@pingree.org). We will be sharing more information about screening, testing, and other medical safety protocols prior to the start of school.

Transportation

We are working with our bus company to understand the impact social distancing will have on students who have registered or plan to register for the bus. We will include questions about transportation as part of a brief survey regarding the return to school in the upcoming weeks. If you are interested in transportation for

your student and have not already registered, please contact Ashley Parks (aparks@pingree.org). Our current plan is to run five bus routes for the 2020–21 year, and you can find detailed information including routes in the parent portal. As we work to develop a plan that emphasizes the safety and well being of our students, it is very important that we have an accurate number of students who intend to take the bus.

Co-curricular Programs and Schedules: We are currently working on athletics and co-curricular plans for the fall season. Information about fall athletics, including preseason information, schedules, and required health forms will be communicated later this summer and updated in the portal. Pre-season for varsity teams is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of August 17. If you have questions about your program, please contact Director of Athletics & Afternoon Programs Betsy Kennedy (bkennedy@pingree.org).

New Student Summer Gatherings

We hope by now all new students have received information about our summer social gatherings. Though these gatherings will be modified with social distancing and health safety in mind, these will be valuable and fun opportunities for new students to get to know each other. We are offering three evening gatherings on campus on the following dates: Thursday, July 16; Tuesday, July 21; and Thursday, July 23. In addition, we will also be offering a virtual gathering for those who are not able or comfortable to join us in person. Please RSVP to Kate Frost (kfrost@pingree.org) to register for one of these events.

Lastly, we hope you will join us for our upcoming virtual town hall on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:00 p.m. Our Head of School, Assistant Head of School for Instruction and Equity, Director of Athletics and Afternoon Programs, Dean of Students, President of the Board of Trustees, and I will answer questions and share ongoing work in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Click [here](#) to register for the event. As new members to our community, we want to emphasize the importance of our partnership in working together to foster an inclusive and safe community for all of our students.

With warm regards,

[Kristin A. Brown](#)

Associate Head of School