

August 7, 2020

Dear U Prep Community,

I appreciate all of the feedback and information we received from our families and crew members in our town halls. Our surveys indicated the majority of families and staff preferred to start in the fall virtually. You empowered my team and me to consider all the angles we needed to examine to make the best possible plan for our entire U Prep Community. We have monitored national, state, and local reports, and solicited advice from medical professionals and other colleagues in the education. **After careful consideration, we are taking steps to start the year 100% virtually at all U Prep Schools campuses.**

It was a tough decision, as I know many of you are returning to work, and others who are deemed *essential* have never left. In the end, the health and safety of your children and our staff drove the final decision. We are currently exploring with our before and aftercare providers an alternative option during the school day. Due to space limitations, this alternative option will be available to our K-8 families only. We will be sure to share the details should an agreement be finalized.

Next week, you will receive a registration packet for children. Locate the *Scholar Information & Consent Card*. This document grants your scholar permission to engage in an all-virtual learning platform for the 20-21 school year. **Please complete and submit this document before the first day of school on Monday, August 31st.**

To ensure a smooth transition to virtual learning for the first quarter, a Chromebook and remote access options will be available to all scholars. Further, to ensure that our scholars and their parents are prepared for a strong start, training will be provided on our new virtual learning platform Schoology. Each campus will provide the details for the distribution of the Chromebooks and training sessions. Should technical assistance be needed, our IT team is committed to providing prompt resolution, support, and will be a phone call away. Regardless of the platform or State mandates, we remain committed to providing our scholars and their families with the tools and support to succeed in this unique school year.

We know our scholars learn best when we are together in person. We will strive toward returning to school as soon as it is appropriate to do so. Please check your emails and text messages regularly for updates. In the future, we will host Town Hall sessions to learn more about the science of COVID-19, and when it would make sense to return to in-person learning for all scholars. Collaboratively, we will reevaluate this decision before the start of the 2nd quarter.

The end of the school year tested our strength. It also taught us about our resilience and relentless commitment to doing what is best for our scholars as a community. Our success this year will rely on these same ideals to be successful. Together, we will rise to face whatever challenges may come our way to ensure we reach our educational goals for all U Prep scholars.

In Community,

Danielle Jackson, Interim CEO
Detroit 90/90 & U Prep Schools