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August 4, 2020

Dear Madonna Heights Families,

In the last few months, we faced a historic pandemic that challenged our spirits. As our schools and businesses closed, and hospitals filled, we had to move quickly to pause the life we knew. Our residential programs continued to function with minor changes while our day program saw major changes. Regardless of the situation, our students, families and staff illustrated great flexibility and resilience. For this, we are grateful.

Now, the New York State Department of Education has tasked the SCO Family of Services residential schools with developing a reopening plan that is flexible and responsive to the changing needs of our school community. Our plan aims to utilize in-person, distance, and/or a hybrid learning models in order to provide synchronous and asynchronous instruction for all our students beginning September 2020. In order to achieve this goal, we must put in place practices that prioritize the health and safety of all of our students, families and staff.

We developed a comprehensive plan based on guidance given to schools from New York State Department of Education, the New York State Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the New York State Governor's office. This plan has been submitted to the state and is available for your review, on our website, and at your request. The full plan can be viewed on SCO Family of Services website at <https://sco.org/covid-19/>.

As we anticipate the upcoming school year will present with challenges we have already faced, we also understand, new ones may arise. We cannot thank you enough for your continued partnership, flexibility, and understanding as we navigate through these tumultuous times and welcome your continuous feedback.

Warm Regards,

Carmen Pinto  
Principal