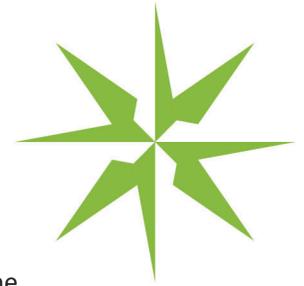


May 27, 2020

Dear Compass students and families,

We hope you and your family have stayed safe and healthy during this incredibly challenging and unprecedented time.

We are evaluating the Compass Academy (CAN) plan for the summer with the safety and well-being of everyone our top priority. **While we are hopeful that the CAN program will be able to provide an engaging and fun in-person summer learning experience (as scheduled July 6th – 31st), it is not clear that we will be allowed to do so. We plan to make a final decision around June 15 and will notify you at that time.** Right now, we are uncertain (but hopeful) that the CAN program is possible under the rules and procedures we need to follow because of the pandemic. We are working hard to see if we can operate under this “new normal” and provide a stimulating and fun experience for students.



Specifically, the City of Joplin May 4th ordinance requires social distancing (6 ft.) and currently limits gatherings of 10 or more people. We are hopeful that Joplin will move to the next phase of its reopening plan which would allow larger groups to gather in time for Compass to begin on July 6th. However, we will not know the City of Joplin’s decision until early June. We are also reviewing guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Missouri Departments of Health and Education, and other school and summer camp groups to determine how best to structure our program for a safe and productive summer. Finally, we are investigating whether we will be able to procure the required supplies to meet healthy hygiene practices and proper cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and buses. **If the Joplin reopening continues as planned, we should be able to commence Compass on July 6th if we can comply with the social distancing, healthy hygiene, and cleaning and disinfections requirements.**

Our 2019 host location, Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School will be closed this summer for an extensive cleaning and preparations for their return to campus in the fall. As a result, we have identified another nearby location in downtown Joplin. While the space has ample classroom and meeting space, it does not have access to the outdoors. **As a result, we are considering holding two sessions Monday through Friday – a morning session and an afternoon session with 20 students in each session. Both sessions would have lunch and a group activity each day.**

Due to social distancing requirements on buses, we will only be able to transport students from Baxter Springs, Riverton, and Galena to and from the program. Students from other communities will need to drive their students themselves and we apologize for the inconvenience.

We plan to make a final decision around June 15 and will notify you at that time. Please follow this link to a short survey so that we can assess interest in participating in the Compass Academy program this year: <https://bit.ly/2X6t9yh>

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions by phone at [417-501-2840](tel:417-501-2840) or by email at info@compassacademynetwork.org.

Meanwhile, please take a look at our weekly creative challenges and other fun items on our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as free resources at: <https://compassacademynetwork.org/free-resources/> to help your student and you.

We hope to safely see you very soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Humphreys', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Debra Humphreys
Executive Director