



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS
CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

Dr. Artesius Miller
Executive Director

Dr. Selina Dukes-Walton
Elementary School Principal

Dr. Ron Boykins
Middle School Principal

Dr. Johanna Strong
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

December 29, 2021

Dear UAFA Stakeholders:

Over the past two weeks, the Utopian Academy for the Arts Charter Network community has been hit hard with the resurgence of the novel coronavirus and the emerging omicron variant. Anticipated student quarantines and limited staff availability threaten the safety, health and operations of our overall community. As such, Utopian Academy will participate in virtual learning January 5-7, 2022. All scholars, both elementary and middle school, will return to in-person learning on Monday, January 10, 2022.

Virtual Learning

For interested stakeholders, Utopian Academy for the Arts Middle School will continue to offer a 100% virtual learning option for the spring 2022 semester. All families that elect into this option will be required to complete the virtual learning parent/student contract. If interested, please contact Dr. Johanna Strong, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, via email at johanna.strong@utopianacademy.com.

COVID Testing

Utopian Academy for the Arts will continue to strictly enforce our COVID mitigation strategies which include mandatory masking, hand sanitization, and surveillance testing. Prior to our winter holiday break, Utopian changed testing vendors to now include testing for both staff and scholars. The need for continuous testing supports our efforts of mitigating the spread with each of our stakeholders. Although testing is not a requirement for our scholars, it is strongly encouraged, and is only authorized by parental/guardian consent. Through research and identified best-practices in local and national schools, surveillance testing has proven to be one of the most impactful strategies in helping to reduce the spread of the virus. Consent forms will be available during onsite drive-thru testing scheduled for next week and additional details will be communicated by your academy principal(s). Additionally, Utopian Academy for the Arts will host two opportunities for COVID-19 drive-thru testing for all faculty, staff, scholars, and parents on Monday, January 3rd (10:00am-4:00pm) and Tuesday, January 4th (8:00am-4:00pm). You may pre-register at www.tptquiklabs.com. Each member of your family will need to be registered separately.

Vaccination Drive and Food Giveaway

State Representative Yasmin Neal and Commissioner Gail Hambrick will offer a vaccination drive and food giveaway on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Free Pfizer vaccines will be available at this event, which is also open to the public. This event will be located at the Fountain of Faith Missionary Church (6712 West Fayetteville Road, Riverdale, GA 30296).

Your school-based leadership teams will be providing additional information regarding your school's specific virtual learning schedule and technology pick-up, if needed.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate yet another challenge presented by the pandemic.

Stay safe and healthy!

Dr. Artesius Miller
Executive Director