



# LINCOLN SCHOOL

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Dear Lincoln School Community,

I am writing to share additional information about the opening of the 2020-2021 school year at Lincoln School. Thank you to those of you who completed our intention survey and to those of you who attended our 3 Town Hall Meetings last week where 172 participants discussed the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. A very special thank you to our Student Wellness Ambassadors who led the meetings and showed our community the Snow Leopard spirit and leadership!

We understand and recognize that there is a level of uneasiness within our community as we reopen campus during these uncertain times. We also acknowledge that although the school has taken every precaution and used every resource available to us, we can make no guarantees. As we have shared in previous communications, **Lincoln School will start the school year on August 12, 2020 using the Hybrid Model.** The Lincoln School Hybrid Model includes options for on campus or online learning. As a Lincoln School family, you can make the choice that best fits your needs at this time.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic presents the most serious public health crisis the world has experienced in decades and looking forward to the 2020-2021 school year and beyond, we are resolved to reopening our campus because we believe doing so is in the best interest of our students. At the same time, we are committed to a pathway for reopening our campus safely with the health and wellbeing of our entire community in mind.

The [Snow Leopards Unite](#) overview outlines our ability to respond quickly to circumstances in our school community as well as to conditions in Nepal. Even as we plan to reopen our campus in the Hybrid Model next week, we know we may need to close again with very little advance warning. This means we are prepared to move between different learning models designed to fit a variety of circumstances.

We also recognize that schools around the world have made significant changes to their operational plans and no school will be operating in a business-as-usual manner for the foreseeable future, but through Snow Leopards Unite, we plan to shape positive school and learning experiences within a challenging new context. In doing so, we acknowledge that the community is stronger together as we move forward. Therefore, we would like to thank our students for their trust, resilience, adaptability, and spirit; our parents for their trust, support, patience, and understanding; and our faculty and staff for their trust, courage, professionalism, and dedication. The 2020-2021 school year promises to be an especially challenging one for all of us, but we are confident that we can face these challenges united.

Lincoln School would like to acknowledge Dr. Bernadette Kumar, Epidemiologist and Public Health Specialist, The Association for the Advancement of International Education and The American School in Japan for their contributions to the information that is being shared with our community today. **Please see the attachment for more information about our learning models and risk management plans.**

Please look for detailed information from the school administration and the teachers in the coming days about the opening of the 2020-2021 Lincoln School year. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with the principals, teachers, members of the response team or me if we can provide further information or support.

Best regards,

Bonetta Ramsey, Director  
Lincoln School

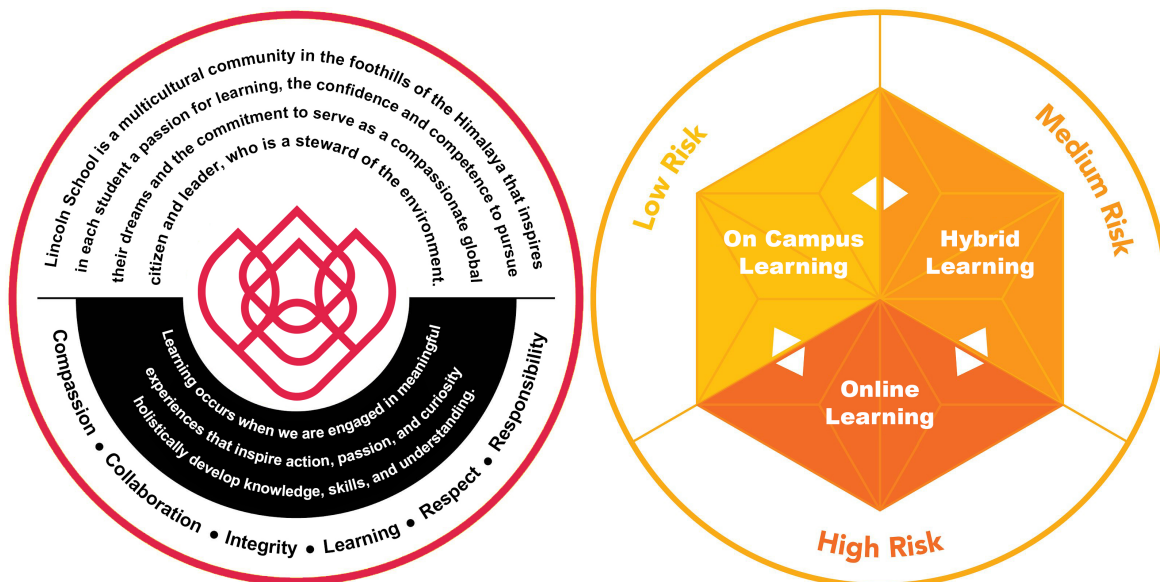


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## The Snow Leopards Unite Guiding Principles:

- We are committed to our guiding statements which include our School Mission, Core Values and Definition of Learning.
- We will continue to prioritize student and staff safety and well-being.
- Through our reopening framework, we will provide a safe platform for positive school and learning experiences within a challenging new context.
- We recognize that online learning is not a long-term substitute for on campus learning experiences.
- Online learning does provide a necessary model of learning when health and safety conditions leave no other option.
- To navigate this unprecedented public health challenge, mutual respect, trust, and a sense of shared responsibility with our community will be essential.
- We have established health and safety practices and procedures in accordance with guidelines set by the CDC, WHO and UNICEF.
- We have developed an ongoing health monitoring system.
- Public health factors and guidelines allow for the safe implementation of on-campus systems and programs.



**A mission-driven framework for connecting the Lincoln School Guiding Statements: mission, values and definition of learning with risk management**

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## Lincoln School: Three Models for Learning

In anticipation of ongoing and evolving challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Lincoln School has developed three models for learning. These three models are based on recognizing that we prefer face-to-face learning over online learning whenever it is safe to do so. The first model, which we call our **On-Campus Learning Model**, describes a traditional school experience where students attend school five days a week. If conditions demand that we close our campus, Lincoln School will move to our Online Learning Model. Finally, we have identified an alternative to being open-or-closed which blends online and face-to-face learning, which we call our **Hybrid Learning Model**. This model acknowledges the critical role face-to-face interactions play in a student's learning while implementing physical distancing norms that reduce student density. More detail about each of these models follows below:

**On Campus Learning Model:** This is a traditional school experience with students attending school in person five days a week. The learning that happens off campus is mostly in the form of homework or projects. Preventative hygiene policies are implemented in combination with realistic physical distancing guidelines. The risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 is considered low enough that greater student density on buses, in classrooms, and in other shared facilities is appropriate.

**Hybrid Learning Model:** This model combines face-to-face learning with coordinated online experiences. This model recognizes that Online Learning does not fully provide the social interaction. This model also introduces physical distancing and density reduction as key strategies to further reduce exposure within our community, while at the same time providing face-to-face interaction between students and teachers about half of the time. In our hybrid model families have the choice of being on campus or remaining online.

**Online Learning Model:** Safety conditions dictate that our campus is closed, and school remains open through online learning experiences. Students attend school virtually through synchronous and asynchronous lessons, activities, and projects. Students collaborate online, but not with the same frequency as in regular school experience.



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## Safety Implications of Each Model

As we navigate the uncertainties associated with COVID-19, Lincoln School will be agile in how we adjust and respond to external health conditions and risks. The following table provides a review of safety implications of the three learning models described on the previous page.

Model	Safety Implications
<b>On Campus Learning Model</b>	<p><b>Risk Level is LOW.</b> External indicators support our confidence in opening campuses to full density and usage including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full density of 220-240 students on campus.</li><li>• Full density of riders on our buses.</li><li>• Full classrooms with up to 24 students in a standard room.</li><li>• Active use of all campus spaces.</li></ul> <p>An on-campus experience would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distancing norms that are encouraged, but not possible in all situations (e.g. in smaller classrooms, hallways, during transitions).</li><li>• Personal hygiene protocols (handwashing, masks, etc.) that are encouraged, but with greater responsibility shifted to students.</li><li>• Cleaning protocols that are less frequent/robust as all spaces (rather than designated zones) would be in full, active use throughout the day.</li></ul>
<b>Hybrid Learning Model</b>	<p><b>Risk Level is MEDIUM.</b> External indicators challenge our confidence in opening campuses at full density and usage, and support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A cohort model that targets a 50% density reduction of students on campus.</li><li>• Designation of facilities and spaces including school transport by cohort.</li><li>• Significantly reduced rider capacity on our buses.</li><li>• Program delivery that is designed to minimize close and proximal contact between students and staff.</li><li>• Use of only well-ventilated larger or combined classroom spaces.</li><li>• Prioritization of outdoor learning spaces.</li></ul> <p>An on-campus experience would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only situations where distancing norms are possible.</li><li>• Personal hygiene protocols (handwashing, masks, etc.) strictly enforced.</li><li>• Robust cleaning and disinfection protocols would be focused on designated zones.</li></ul>
<b>Online Learning Model</b>	<p><b>Risk Level is HIGH.</b> External indicators support our confidence that physically closing our campus is the best course of action. Indicators are associated with public health criteria, Government response, and social unrest.</p>