December 16, 2021

Dear Monarch Academy Annapolis Families:

As you are aware from our prior communications, a significant number of students and staff members have been impacted by recent cases of COVID-19 and quarantines imposed as a result of those cases.

This letter is to inform you that in order to best continue to serve our families, The Children’s Guild, operator of Monarch Academy Annapolis, will temporarily suspend in-person learning effective Friday, December 17, 2021. We will conduct instruction virtually this week as outlined below and it is our intention to resume in-person instruction on Monday, January 3rd, 2022. The temporary pause of in-person learning affects all school programming, including before- and after-school activities, all extracurricular practices and competitions and all weekend events.

This decision is not one that comes from any recommendation of the Anne Arundel County Department of Health or Anne Arundel County Public Schools. They are aware, however, of our desire to continue instruction effectively as possible and of this operational adjustment. We believe this temporary pause in in-person instruction will also provide time to further assess air flow quality, conduct a deep cleaning of our building, and ensure appropriate staffing is available when we return to in-person learning.

Daily virtual instruction will commence according to the normal school schedule on Monday, December 20, 2021. Asynchronous independent learning will be available on Friday, December 17. Your student will receive communication from their teacher. For instructional technology or support, please contact service@childrensguild.org. Chromebooks and instructional supplies will be available for pick up at Monarch Academy Annapolis from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021.

AACPS’s Division of Food & Nutrition Services will make arrangements for students to receive meals during this temporary pause of in-person learning. Should you need to access meals, please call 410-222-5900 for information.

Once we return to in-person learning, it is our intention to seek a waiver of the 180-day school day requirement from the Maryland State Board of Education for any days on which virtual instruction is not offered, as well as to seek approval from the Maryland State Board of Education to allow virtual instruction days to count toward the 180 day requirement. Should those requests not be granted, we will have to adjust our school year calendar.
We are closely monitoring this situation and will provide you with updates as we know more. Please do not hesitate to contact me at lanek@childrensguild.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lane

Kathy Lane
Chief Education Officer
The Children’s Guild