



**5897 Prestley Mill Rd \* Douglasville, GA 30135 \* 770-615-3680 \* [www.brightenacademy.com](http://www.brightenacademy.com)**

January 5, 2021

Families of Brighten,

As you know our staff returned to work on January 4, 2021, and has been preparing for a safe and productive start to 2021. We've been closely monitoring the data related to COVID-19 in our community and in our school. Although we have been able to limit case transmission within the school, we are at a place where the surge in the community is impacting the number of faculty or staff who have tested positive or are quarantined. Simply put, we do not have enough staff available at this time to properly supervise our face-to-face students, maintain social distancing, and meet the instructional needs of our virtual and face to face students. As a result, we have made the difficult decision to delay returning to face-to-face instruction until January 19, 2021. This means your student will participate in school via virtual instruction from January 6-15, 2021. This gives us an additional week to hire and train additional substitute teachers, time for the contact tracing and results from tests that were administered this week to be completed, and time for us to make any adjustments to the overall school schedule so we can safely operate and continue to deliver excellent instruction.

Your student's teacher has communicated the virtual schedule (along with the times and links to the live zoom sessions) to your student's Google Classroom. The staff has planned work that will need to be completed via our live zoom sessions as well as assigned independent work that needs to be completed within the school day or by the beginning of the next school day.

We know that the rise in cases has caused several families to change their learning plan to be fully virtual. If you would like to make a change to reduce the number of days your student is scheduled to be in school for face-to-face instruction, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting Mrs. Scherer at [pscherer@brightenacademy.com](mailto:pscherer@brightenacademy.com).

We know that this delay brings about mixed reactions and concerns for each member of our school community. Please know it was a decision that was made with the utmost care and concern for our entire school community.

Sincerely,

Lisa McDonald

