November 20, 2020

Dear Valued Stepping Stone School Families:

Yesterday, the City of Austin and Travis County moved the COVID-19 stage from level three, back down to level four. Stepping Stone School never changed procedures when the City/County moved to level 3, so we have been practicing all of the safety, health

and sanitation guidelines and requirements of level four. We will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

We are very heartened by many of the comments made by the leading national COVID-19 experts during their press conference yesterday. Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the CDC said, “We need to make data driven decisions. The CDC does not recommend school closures. Face to face learning can be done safely and responsibly.” He also said, “Infections are not acquired at schools, but in the community and households.”

Elinore Katz, MD, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Mental Health for the US Department of Health and Human Services also remarked, “One of the safest places for kids to be, from our perspective, is to remain in school. It is important we don’t make emotional decisions about closing schools. Protecting and also fostering the social and emotional wellbeing of children is critical, not only to their own development, but also to the development of healthy families and communities. We know that in addition to education, schools provide our children a profound sense of security and stability. I believe strongly that we need schools to remain open.”

Since March, Stepping Stone School has been here for our families! We have taken all necessary precautions, going above and beyond to keep our children and employees safe and healthy. We have provided our families with the peace of mind they need knowing their children are in loving and happy environments, where their learning continues uninterrupted.

Children returning to our schools are excited and safe! We know children learn best in environments that are both social and cognitive.  Children in early childhood settings are interacting **SAFELY** with each other! Their development is enhanced because they grow and thrive with each other and our caring, kind, and thoughtful teachers and administrators. **We are here to provide comfort and stability to your child!**

We continue to successfully provide ***Virtual Learning Pods*** for school age children who log onto their on-line lessons, complete their work and homework, and participate in our own innovative and enhanced school age programming.

Stepping Stone School is uniquely qualified with over 40 years of experience and degreed faculty to continue the loving care and education of your children through this unprecedented time in our lives. **We are moving forward with courage, optimism and strength!**

Sincerely,



Rhonda Paver, M.A.

Owner and Executive Director