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Dear Omni Community,

We hope that this letter finds you healthy and hopeful during this continuing stay-at-home time. It has been inspiring to see all the ways that our Omni community is giving back to greater Charlotte and showing gratitude towards those on the front lines of this pandemic. It has also been encouraging to see how engaged our students, employees and families have remained over the past two months.

The Omni Board of Trustees and Leadership Team recognize and share in the uncertainty our community is feeling in these extraordinary times. Throughout our 35-year history, Omni has focused on being a nurturing, caring community that holds true to its mission and core values. Our commitment to community has never been more evident as we all continue to walk through this global health crisis together.

In recent weeks we have received questions and concerns regarding tuition assistance, the health of our employees and what Omni will look like in the future. While we do not have all of the answers today, our administration, faculty and staff, along with the Board of Trustees, have all been working tirelessly to ensure our community will remain whole.

#### **Our Commitment to Families:**

In addition to the recent decision to re-open the financial aid portal, the Board of Trustees has voted in principle to increase financial tuition assistance for the 2020-2021 school year. The actual amount of this increase will be decided when the Board votes on a final budget in June. We realize that more families will begin to experience financial hardships in the coming months, so we will continue to leave the financial aid portal open into the next school year. If you have any questions about the financial aid process, please reach out to Cindy Curry or Lori Lauman.

#### **Our Commitment to Employees:**

Since Omni transitioned to our Montessori Learning at Home program, our guides and assistants have not only provided our children with valuable Montessori lessons, but they have continued to develop meaningful and loving connections with their students. To hold true to our mission, the Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees have committed to keeping our faculty and staff levels intact.

Omni applied for, was granted, and recently accepted federal funding in the form of a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan. The school's rationale for accepting these funds relates to the following four financial considerations: our losses in revenue from canceled auxiliary events this spring and summer, our desire not to make staffing cuts during this time of

uncertainty and hardship, our expected increase in expenses for the next school year, and a projected shortfall in enrollment for 2020-2021. The loan will allow us to continue to cover all of our personnel expenses for the current fiscal year while simultaneously purchasing materials, making facilities improvements, training employees and supporting families through additional financial aid funds for the next school year.

### **Our Commitment to the Future:**

The Leadership Team has formed a Back to Campus Task Force who is planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The vision statement for this task force is: *The safety and health of our students, employees and families will lead how and where we learn and operate. Our belief in empowering children in a community faithful to the teachings of Maria Montessori will ensure that we consider the physical, social, emotional and academic development of our students and also take into account our desire to continue to be an inclusive and multicultural school.* We are using this lens to design our school experience under three different scenarios:

Scenario One: All students and staff will report in our traditional face-to-face structure for instruction and work with modified social distancing, cleaning practices and screening protocols in place.

Scenario Two: Omni will adopt a new model for ongoing instruction and work that includes a blend of remote and in-person instruction.

Scenario Three: Due to a recurrence or resurgence of COVID-19, Omni will remain in a remote learning and remote work environment until clearance is given by public health officials.

There are many, many details to be worked out for each scenario and we will share that information with you by the end of June. Please know that our ultimate goal is to maximize the number of days that our students are physically on our campuses in 2020-2021.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and partnership. The lessons, gratitude and sense of community felt over the last two months are inspirational. We are grateful that our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and families continue to work together to navigate these significant challenges and difficult times.

Warm Regards,



Cindy Curry  
Head of School



Kris Phillips  
BOT President