Dear Idyllwild Community,

As the COVID-19 pandemic develops across the United States, we are continuing to evaluate the best and most effective way to deliver Idyllwild Arts programs. This week, Idyllwild Arts Academy students started their online classes for the remainder of the semester. Modern technology is allowing us to teach them as well as keep our school community connected through weekly all-school assemblies, faculty meetings, and more.

With a plan for our Academy students underway, we now turn our attention to the hundreds of students and adults we welcome each summer.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our school community remain our highest priorities. As we await guidance from State and local authorities as to the duration of the Stay at Home order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 19, 2020, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our on-campus Summer Program. We know that many Idyllwild residents attend the Idyllwild Arts summer and year-round programs. Here are a few things you may need to know.

If I signed up for a class that is canceled, will I receive a refund?
If Idyllwild Arts cancels a class prior to the first day, all tuition paid will be refunded. Given the current situation, Idyllwild Arts will also return the $50 non-refundable application fee, or give students the option of donating the fee to support the Summer Program. Students or parents may opt to apply funds as a credit toward another class offered throughout the year or during the 2021 Summer Program. We will be contacting enrolled students whose classes have been canceled to find out their preferences. We will begin crediting refunds on April 20, 2020.

Does Idyllwild Arts plan to offer online classes this summer?
We are exploring several options. Some workshops may be postponed until the fall, winter, or spring. Other classes may be offered online. We will notify registered students with any updates. If travel restrictions are lifted, we may offer selected workshops at off-site facilities, such as in the Palm Springs area, where student support and medical services are more readily available.

Will Idyllwild Arts resume its Spring Auxiliary Programs for children?
Theatre and Dance classes originally offered on campus through the end of May have been moved online. Instructor Dimyana Pelev has developed an online version of her Theatre Workshop. Dance instructor Ellen Rosa-Taylor will offer video lessons for enrolled Dance students. No decisions have been made for music lessons. Parents will receive information this week about their options.

Will Idyllwild Arts offer adult classes, the Native American Arts Festival, or Teens & Kids workshops later in the summer?
We currently do not anticipate offering any classes on campus until fall at the earliest. The Native American Arts Festival will take place, likely as a hybrid of online and live events after the summer. We are currently working to determine online or hybrid options for Teens & Kids and Adult workshops.

I will continue to provide weekly updates to keep Idyllwild residents informed of the school’s activities.

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees of Idyllwild Arts, we wish you continued health and wellness in the days and weeks ahead.

In partnership,

Pamela Jordan
President and Head of School