



Dear Excel Families,

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you for maintaining your commitment to the Excel Academy community. I know I am not alone in feeling anger, sadness, and frustration at what we are being asked to take on this year, but I am also eager to be able to provide more support for our students and grateful to have such a strong team to work with. And I am so appreciative of how our community is persisting through all of this – with such intelligence and insight and bravery and empathy and generosity.

Over the past weeks, we have made some key decisions around reopening for our schools, and so I want to pass those on. First, we are **pushing back our Middle School opening to September 14th and our High School opening to September 15th**, as DESE recently allowed schools to do so in order to provide more time to prepare for the start of school.

For all schools, we are **committed to maximizing the number of students that are able to be on campus safely, while also providing a high-quality, structured remote option we are calling Remote +Plus.**

Please note that we are aware of the recent recommendation from the Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools to open the school year remotely, given the rising infection rates there. We will take that into consideration and closely monitor as we finalize our plan.

While school will look quite a bit different than in normal times, we will still offer students full day access to the highest-quality education we can deliver, with as close to a normal school day schedule as possible.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Owen".

Owen Stearns