

Dear Upper School Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and that your children's week has gotten off to a good start as we head back into a temporary new way of learning for Columbus Academy.

I wanted to let you know that I still plan on providing individual counseling to upper school students. I have already reached out to those students with whom I have counseled this year to see how they are doing. I plan on sending out information to all upper school students as well with a link to my calendar so they can schedule appointments. Because of the privacy issues involved, I plan on using the platform Doxyme, which is a telemedicine platform. All data is encrypted, the sessions are anonymous, and none of your children's information is stored. They adhere to HIPAA data-privacy requirements. It is very easy to use. Students do not have to download anything or make an account. For more information, go to doxyme.com.

I will be counseling in a private space in my home. Your children are assured of confidentiality with me, with the following exceptions: 1) they are putting themselves in danger, 2) they are putting others in danger, and 3) they allow me to share information. In those cases, I will be calling you directly and immediately. My goal is to work in partnership with families, and if there are other concerns that I think should be shared with you, I will talk with your children about the best way to share any other information. **Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions. Unless I hear back from you, I will assume I have permission to counsel your children online.**

I want you to feel confident that whether at Columbus Academy physically or virtually, I have your children's best interests in mind. If I am concerned that they may need more intensive and ongoing support, I will work with you to help facilitate a referral to a private therapist who is currently practicing online. You may also contact:

For Children 17 and Younger

Nationwide Children's Big Lots Behavioral Health Services

614-355-8080 for an appointment

614-722-1800 24/7 for an emergency (Franklin County)

For Children 18 and older

Ohio State Harding Hospital

614-293-9600 for an appointment

Netcare Access 24/7 Crisis Line 614-276-2273

I am also available to set appointments with you to discuss any concerns you may be having about your children. From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., call the main office at 614-475-2311 and the call will be forwarded to me. I will be sure to check my email on a regular basis as well.

Here is a great resource from the National Association of School Psychology with information to help you support your children during this time:

[Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting From COVID-19](#)

I am here if you need me. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

All the best to you and your families,

[Dr. Suzanne Ritter](#)

Upper School Psychologist