



Dear Mahindra International School Families,

I am excited to welcome you to the 2020-21 academic year. The past 5 months have certainly been challenging ones for all of us. I hope that this message finds you in good health and well-being.

The School's Mission of **Promote Learning, Encourage Responsibility** and **Celebrate Diversity** has been an anchor point for us through these times of change. Importantly, our Vision statement to '**create an empowered, innovative and agile community of learners who contribute positively within and beyond the school**' has been demonstrated by all our educators and learners in this time. I am exceptionally proud of the persistence in delivering high-quality learning that was shown in the final few months of the last academic year. By the end of May, we had students learning across 10 time zones worldwide!

As we have been gearing up for our new academic year, we have been touched by the level of support that our parent body have been showing for the school. It is certainly a testament to the strength of our community. We understand that families may be living with uncertainty about where they are living, employment contracts, and transitions. We hope that we can help support you through these times and provide a 'home-base' for your children no matter where they are learning from!

As you know, we will be starting this new academic year in what we call a '**Virtual Learning**' (VL) format. We have spent some time to refine our VL procedures based on our learning and research in the past 5 months. We are very confident that we can maintain the high-standard of learning that we are known for. You will be getting more information about specific procedures for different grade levels in due course. For the moment, it is important that you know that we are planning in great detail and using the best available methods to make this engaging and significant for all learners.

In terms of **future learning plans**, we continue to prepare for a variety of different circumstances. These scenarios are divided into roughly three categories – Virtual Learning, Blended Learning and Face-to-Face learning. Our Blended Learning plans will provide for a combination of face-to-

face learning experiences and Virtual Learning in a way that prioritizes safety, health and well-being. The details of these plans will be shared once we have clear guidelines from the authorities. We also recognize that on-campus, face-to-face learning will be quite different than it was prior to the pandemic. Again, safety, health and well-being are priorities for developing appropriate learning environments. I will be communicating in more detail on these plans as the year progresses.

For several years, we have been a 1-1 device school and this integration of technology (ipads, chromebooks and laptops) has supported our transition to VL. Students are skilled in using digital tools for learning. This has also meant that much of our investment in resources, including texts, has been in digital formats. Your child will be provided with login access to the relevant websites, applications, platforms and textbooks for their classes. We are also gathering some **stationary starter packs** for families who are in Pune and are able to come to campus to collect them. A separate email communication will be coming out guiding you about when you can come to pick up these materials. Please note that if you are unable to pick up these materials, your child can use 'normal' stationary that can be easily purchased in a local stationary store.

Given that families are located all around the world at the moment and that our campus is closed for purchases, you are not required to purchase school uniforms at this time. It is important that students are dressed appropriately for school, even when attending from home. If your child can wear a uniform that you already have, that is great! If not a T-shirt and trousers are appropriate.

We look forward to welcoming new families on Monday the 10th for an orientation session

(1130 to 1230 Secondary School New families on Teams / 1330 to 1430 Primary School New Families will meet on Google meets) and to getting started with all students on Tuesday 11th of August.

If you need support, please don't hesitate to ask. Here are some important contacts in case you have questions. Please direct your question to the most appropriate department.

Admissions office (Priti Satpute): admissions@misp.org

Secondary Principal (Patrick McCarthy): secondaryprincipal@misp.org

Primary Principal (Helen Sharrock): primaryprincipal@misp.org

Technology support (Vikram Sra and Team): tech.support@misp.org

Director (Eileen Niedermann): director@misp.org



Eileen Niedermann

Director, Mahindra International School