



Dear Idyllwild Community,

This past weekend, nearly 170 students made the journey from far and near to come together as a community of artists and pursue their dreams. Over the past several weeks, we have been connecting with our students virtually, and while travel restrictions have prevented some students from attending Idyllwild Arts in person, we are delighted to bring most of our incredible students back to campus.

Our teachers play an invaluable role in helping our students succeed. Since the global pandemic began, the contributions, sacrifices, and commitment of Idyllwild Arts teachers have extended well beyond any requirement or expectation. Willingness to teach classes as early as 5 am or as late as 9 pm to reach our global student population in both hemispheres is proof of their dedication. We are grateful to each of them and to the many support staff and administrators who have also worked tirelessly to create the safest and best experience possible for our students.

Our highest priority is to keep our students and employees healthy and safe as the pandemic continues. Returning students were required to provide evidence that they had arrived on campus virus-free. Only one student tested positive and was unable to return at this time. Anticipating the students' return, nearly 60 employees have received the COVID-19 vaccination and some have received or been scheduled to receive their second vaccination.

Of course, it is possible to transmit the virus even after receiving the vaccine; therefore, Idyllwild Arts will continue to provide COVID-19 testing for our school community and require everyone to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing. Students are now quarantining for the required two weeks. A hybrid of in-person and online classes will resume after the quarantine period.

Boarding students will still be prohibited from leaving campus throughout the semester. Our students love Idyllwild and miss their weekend trips into town. We are grateful to local restaurateurs who have agreed to deliver food to our campus, helping students feel less isolated. We look forward to a productive and safe spring semester. We are planning a hybrid of year-end in-person and virtual ceremonies to acknowledge the hard work of the Class of 2021.

We thank the residents of Idyllwild for all of their support of Idyllwild Arts and the students we serve. Students travel from around the world to live in our little hamlet and we are grateful to everyone who helps to make this experience special for them.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Pamela Jordan".

Pamela Jordan

*President, Idyllwild Arts Foundation*

