



Dear Idyllwild Community,

It has been over six weeks since our students were last on campus and we eagerly await their return on the weekend of February 19-21. Though Riverside and Los Angeles Counties have received national attention for having some of the country's highest COVID-19 infection rates, we are dedicated to providing the health and safety protocols necessary to keep our students and employees safe throughout the semester.

We proved that we know how to stay safe last fall. Out of some three hundred students and employees, only seven tested positive for the coronavirus. All were asymptomatic and we had no COVID-related hospitalizations. A number of our employees have already been vaccinated. Furthermore, we will confine our students to campus this semester, just as we did in the fall.

While away from school, our students have continued to produce outstanding work. We are proud of two Idyllwild Arts Academy students who were chosen to represent the school at an inaugural event honoring Vice President Harris, hosted by the California State Society. Joe Davis '21 rendered a spirited version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and Aminta Skye '21 performed an original song, "Ivory is Normalcy," reflecting her experience as a Senegalese-American.

Time and again, we are reminded of the vitally important role that Idyllwild Arts plays in the lives of young artists. The pandemic has only strengthened our resolve to give them the tools to be imaginative and innovative. We are committed to creating the spaces, whether online or in-person, for students to pursue, fail, succeed, grow, and experience the process of pursuing their passions toward purpose.

Though we do not expect to hold public performances or exhibits this semester, we will present work in our online venues. This month, I encourage you to visit idyllwildartsgallery.org to enjoy the exhibit, *A Pimple of Mountain: Caring For Wounds*. Yixuan "Maisie" Luo '15 created this work while she taught at Idyllwild Arts during 2019-2020, before moving on to Harvard to study for a Master's degree in theology. Maisie's work will be online February 5-March 13.

We are proud of our students and alumni and we are grateful to everyone who helps to make Idyllwild Arts a unique learning environment. We look forward to a time when we can gather on campus to celebrate the extraordinary talents of our students. Until such time, we wish everyone continued health and safety.

Warmly,

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

Pamela Jordan

President, Idyllwild Arts Foundation

