

My Dear Campers, Families and Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce Camp CaPella will be closed for the Summer 2020 season. As you can imagine this was not an easy decision for camp staff and board members to come to. Our number one priority has always been, and will remain, to protect the health and safety of our campers and staff.

Camp CaPella's mission is to provide a traditional camp experience for individuals with disabilities of all ages. In order to meet this mission, our camp program is comprised of inclusive recreational, learning, and social activities, while providing all additional supports our campers may need. A key component of Camp CaPella is to provide an environment that is both a physically and emotionally safe space for our campers, and one where parents/guardians feel safe as well. With restrictions in place related to COVID19 – such as 6' physical distancing – it is too difficult to ensure the safety and well being of our campers within the close environment of our camp.

While there are no campers at camp this year, the facilities committee is working on some plans for much needed repairs they hope to be able to focus on. Should restrictions begin to lift or altered in a manner that will allow for safe camp programming, it is my hope to be able to offer alternatives as we navigate the months ahead. I will continue to plan for Fall and Winter options as well. And planning for Summer 2021 is already in the works! It will be the greatest come back summer ever!!!

I know that this is hard for all of you. It is hard for me too. I see your smiling faces and I can imagine the high fives and hugs passed among us all. I cheer your achievements, and I see the growth you all have made! Even if we cannot be together physically this Summer, I continue to explore options for communicating with and seeing you all this Summer. Please stay tuned for more!

In the coming weeks, I will be sending individual letters to all of those who applied to attend camp this Summer. This will outline some of the options you may have regarding refunds. Please be patient as I make my way thru all of you.

As I bring this to a close, I am reminded of the Camp CaPella song lyrics, "Happy Times Together, Fair and Stormy Weather." We are facing some stormy weather right now, but together we will get thru this and be with our friends again soon! I miss and love you all!

Be Well. Stay Healthy. Choose Kindness.

Your camp director,

Heidi Riggs