



# Providence's COVID-19 Pandemic Response Plan

**FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

After coming out of a year with a sudden shift to home learning and looking ahead to another school year requiring adjustment due to health risks, this plan is how we intend to maintain the highest level of safety while resuming our in-person classroom meetings. Not only do we wish to relieve the burden placed on families in home learning, but we truly believe gathering and interacting throughout the school day is necessary for us to fully realize our vision of education for our students. Though there will be new obstacles and inconveniences placed in our way as we comply with health guidelines, we are convinced the trade-off is well worth what we are gaining by removing the obstacles and challenges home learning presents.

Though we realize there are varying views on the level of risk associated with the current pandemic and what the best practices are to mitigate that risk, it is our aim in this plan to care well for the most vulnerable in our community through the precautions and procedures which have been recommended to schools for the coming year. While there is the lowest-risk option of resuming home learning, we are strongly committed to returning to the school building together in the fall, taking the measures necessary to reduce risk to staff and student health. Our education is of the highest quality and reaches its fullest potential when it is in-person and interactive.

In addition to the adjustments we will be making in the school day, we will continue to have clear and proactive communication with families, recognizing that circumstances have often been changing at a rapid pace. We will also be encouraging families to take proper coping and resilience measures in preparation for however long this pandemic carries on, setting time aside to care well for yourselves, sharing concerns openly with the school as they arise, and positioning ourselves for a marathon, rather than a sprint. Though we certainly hope our lives will return to the familiar pattern from before COVID before too much longer, we ought to be prepared for long-term changes as well as we can.

We are thankful to be a school that is of a size and shape that can make adjustments such as these with more ease and less disruption than many larger schools. As always, we trust the Lord for His wisdom and provision, as the uncertainty of the times ahead are ever apparent. Keep in prayer for the health of our community and the effectiveness of our educational efforts as we approach next year.

Chris Buckles  
*Headmaster*

## Plan Overview

After consulting with health experts, local schools, as well as our own faculty and board, **we are planning on opening the school building for in-person classes for all grade levels for the 20-21 school year.**<sup>1</sup> In order to do so, we will need to establish policies and practices in order to mitigate risk to student and staff health throughout the year. This means that while we will be back in the building, we will not be going back to “normal” as such. The first major section of this plan details the “Policies and Practices to Mitigate Risk During the Year.” We will seek to maintain as much of our normal operating procedures while making the necessary adjustments to ensure the health and safety of our community. The second major section of this plan offers a couple contingency “Plans for Partial or Full School Closures During the Year.” This section outlines what our approach will be to possible community infections and transmission, as well as our plans in the worst-case scenario of having to close the school building again.

**Please note that while the policies and practices you will see below assume the highest level of restrictions, our goal is to lower these restrictions as much as possible while complying with the guidelines and mandates of local health officials.** However, we developed the plan with the strongest restrictions and worst-case scenarios in mind, knowing that we could much more easily lessen these restrictions than develop them on the fly.

If, as you read through this plan, you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Buckles or Mr. Keating. If your family has specific needs, issues, or conflicts with the plan, please reach out to the administration as soon as possible so that we can address those proactively.

## **POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO MITIGATE RISK DURING THE YEAR**

### **Health and Attendance Policies for Staff and Students**

#### *Monitoring Community Health*

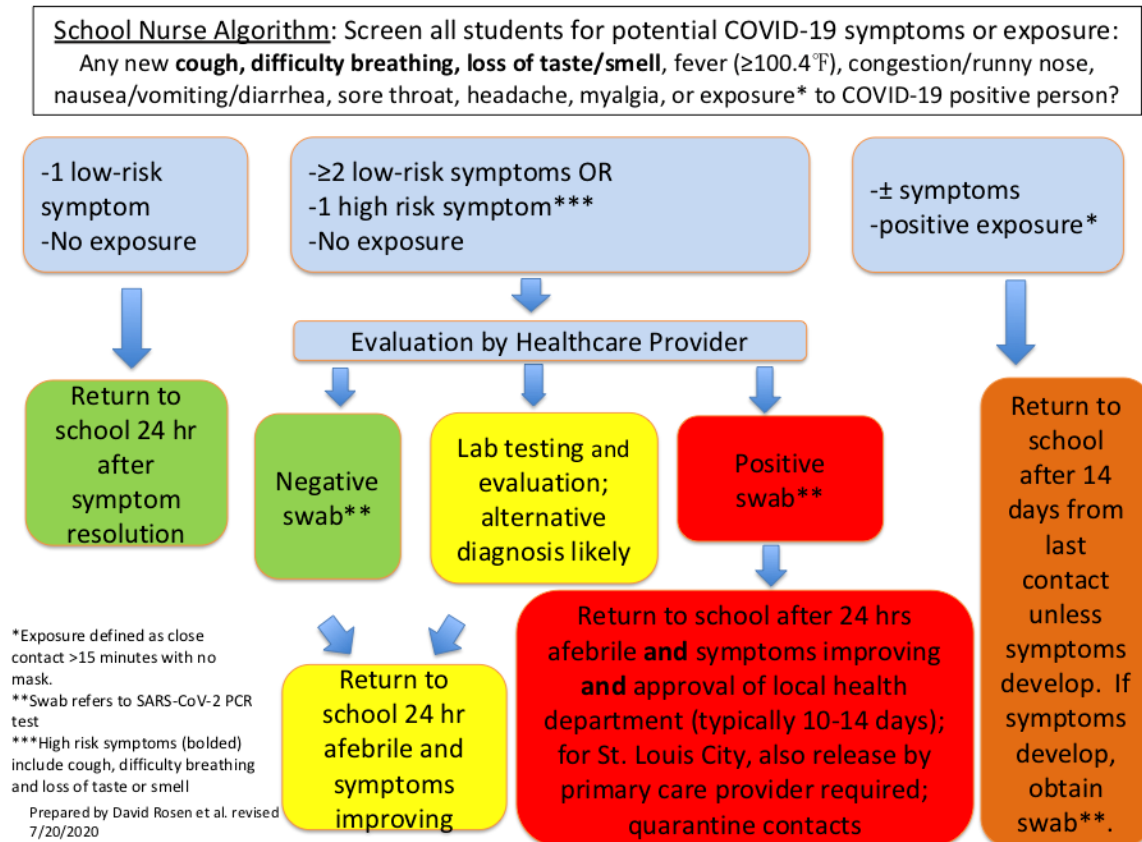
**Each family will submit daily COVID screening questions through the Providence Family App or FACTS Family portal.** This information will both allow the administration to monitor our community’s health status and give assurance to local health authorities that we are tracking our community’s health status.

<sup>1</sup> In developing this plan the administration consulted with a number of resources including the CDC’s “[Considerations for Schools](#)”, the Missouri School Board Association’s “[Pandemic Recovery Considerations](#),” the National Association of Independent Schools’ “[Coronavirus Guidance for Schools](#),” St. Louis County health officials’ “[Resocialization of Sports in the St. Louis Region](#)” and fellow schools in the Christian Schools Association of St. Louis (CSASL), as well as the board and faculty at Providence.

### Adjusted Attendance and Screening Policies

Providence's policy has always been that students who have symptoms of possible contagious illnesses (i.e. are sick) should be kept home. This will remain our policy, but we will be especially proactive in enforcing the policy.

We have updated our procedures below to reflect the processes of this diagnostic flow chart we are using to guide our decision-making:



Specifically with respect to COVID-19 the following additional policies apply:

1. If any student or staff member is expressing any one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19, they must be kept from school until asymptomatic, they receive an alternate diagnosis, or they receive a negative test result.
2. If any student or staff member has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must stay home for a period of fourteen days before returning to school. If a student or staff member gets a COVID test, they may return once they provide a negative test result.
3. If a student or staff member receives a positive diagnosis, they must remain away from school until they are without a fever, having improving symptoms, and have approval

from both the St. Louis County health department and a healthcare professional to return to school.

4. In the case that a member of a classroom (student or teacher) receives a positive diagnosis, that grade and members of the student body and faculty that have been in close contact with them will be required to quarantine for a period of fourteen days.
5. If a student is sick, parents must call the school office to report the absence. At this time, the receptionist will ask a few symptom screening questions so that the school can actively monitor our community's health.
6. Administrators will be asking parents to answer a few health and COVID exposure screening questions before student drop-off. Should answers suggest possible symptoms or exposure to COVID, the administrator may ask the parents to keep the child at home. Additionally, we plan to utilize temperature checks as part of our screening process for all visitors and any unscreened students who enter the building.
7. Staff members will submit daily COVID screening questions before coming to school.
8. In general, we will be seeking to reduce the number of outside visitors present in the school.
9. Visitors will be screened every time they enter the building.

#### *Sample Screening Questions*

1. Has your child or any member of your household had a fever of 100.4 or above within the last 72 hours?
2. Has your child or any member of your household exhibited any of the following: cough, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell within the last 72 hours?
3. Has your child or any member of your household been exposed to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days?

#### *Immunization and Vaccinations*

Providence will continue to follow our current immunization policy:

1. The headmaster will be responsible for overseeing the immunization documentation for each student, including the gathering of immunization records from families.
2. In accordance with state law MO 167.181.1, no student will be permitted to attend school unless he or she has been immunized as required under the current rules and regulations of the Department of Health and Senior Services ([www.dhss.mo.gov/immunizations](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/immunizations)) and can provide satisfactory evidence of such immunization.
3. A student who provides the school with an "Immunizations in Progress" Form, signed by his or her physician, may continue to attend school as long as the immunization process is being accomplished in the prescribed manner.
4. Students may be exempted from this requirement if parents object by submitting copies of State of Missouri Form Religious or Medical Exemption.

If and when an FDA-approved vaccination is available, we will require our students to get vaccinated. We will adhere to our current vaccination policies, which allow for medical and religious exemptions should a family submit the necessary paperwork. However, should there be a positive COVID-19 diagnosis at the school after a FDA-approved vaccine is available and has been required, unvaccinated students will be required to stay home.

## **If Someone Gets Sick at School**

In the event that a student or staff member gets sick while at school we will follow a basic set of procedures:

1. If a student reports feeling ill, their teacher will ask some simple screening questions to determine the nature of the illness.
2. **If any of the reported symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, that student will be sent to a separate nurse's station** (the room closest to the side entrance for pick up and drop off) where **they will be kept isolated from other students or staff and will be monitored by a member of the staff until they can be picked up by a parent**. Only one staff person will be in contact with that student.
3. Parents will be informed that they need to pick up their child as soon as possible. When they arrive, they will pick that student up by the side entrance of the building.
4. The nurse's station will then be disinfected, as will all other surfaces and areas that the student or staff member in question has been in contact with.

If a student or staff person tests positive for COVID-19 during the school year, all families who have students who have been in close contact with the student or staff member will be notified in accordance with local health safety procedures. Certain classes may be asked to quarantine for a period of time depending on their level of exposure to an infected student or staff member.

## **Hygiene and Health Etiquette**

Hygiene and health etiquette are habits of virtue that we seek to instill in students in normal times, but which have become even more important during this season of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is worth remembering that we practice hygiene and health etiquette as a way to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Some of these habits are practices we should be doing at all times regardless of the health situation, others reflect the extraordinary nature of the pandemic.

### *Basic Health Etiquette*

1. Students will receive instruction on basic hygiene, manners, and etiquette.
2. Students and faculty will practice social distancing insofar as it is possible, seeking to remain 6 feet from one another, and not making unnecessary physical contact throughout the day.

3. Our goal will be for each student to have their own personal sanitation supplies (e.g. tissues, hand sanitizer, wipes for desks). This may be dependent on their availability.
4. Items and school supplies (e.g. pens, pencils, etc.) will not be shared between students. Each student will be responsible for having their own school supplies.
5. There will be regular breaks throughout the day to wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
6. Students should bring their own water bottle each day. Water fountains will only be used to refill water bottles.

### *Masks*

We recognize there are likely different perspectives and opinions on the need and value of masks during the pandemic. However, as a school institution we are bound by two principles that guide our decision-making with respect to mask use: First, we are called to follow the guidance of the local, state, and national health authorities which have issued guidance on the use of masks. Second, we are called to love our neighbor, and so insofar as some members of our community believe that wearing masks is necessary, we can love our fellow community members by taking the extra precaution of wearing masks in some situations.

With that in mind, we are currently following the [most recent St. Louis County mask order](#) which requires all students age five and up, as well as all faculty and staff, to wear masks throughout the school day, with exceptions for activities such as eating, drinking, recess, and P.E. If parents have a medical or health concern with their student wearing a mask for this extended period of time, they may receive an exemption with documentation from their attending pediatrician.

**Masks must either be school-supplied, or a solid, muted color.**

Finally, we know that the idea of having faculty and students in masks may be jarring and is certainly undesirable. Know that **we will seek to shift away from this policy as soon as it becomes advisable** based on guidance from local, state, and national health authorities.

### **Facilities**

In order to mitigate risk of infection during the school year, we will be taking a number of actions with respect to our facilities.

#### *Cleaning and Disinfection*

We will follow the below procedures for cleaning and disinfection:

1. Before returning to the school building, the administration will have the building fully cleaned and disinfected.
2. At the end of each day, cleaning will include a full disinfection of the major surfaces of each classroom.



3. In the case of a positive diagnosis of a student or staff member, we will follow the guidance of local health authorities.

#### *Classrooms*

Classrooms will generally be rearranged so that seating is spaced 6ft apart and is all facing the same direction. There will be no classes of greater than 13 students and the vast majority of classes will be under 10 students.

#### *Restrooms*

We will ask that grammar school students use the restroom one at a time. We will ask upper school students and staff to maintain social distancing in restrooms.

#### *Common Spaces*

Generally speaking, we are limiting the use of common spaces such as the lunchroom, music room, and art room. When used, they will be disinfected after each class uses the space. We will restrict the number of students in common spaces to either their specific grade level or cohort. We will follow local and state guidelines for gatherings in larger groups.

#### *Signs and Messages*

We will post signs with basic guidance on hygiene and health etiquette in each of the bathrooms throughout the school and in other locations throughout the school to remind both students and faculty of healthy habits.

### **Adjustments to Our Daily Schedule**

Our goal is to replicate our normal school days as much as possible. However, we will likely have to make adjustments to the schedule going forward in order to mitigate risk throughout the school year. Below you will see a series of adjustments to the daily schedule for both the grammar and upper schools. It is possible that some of these adjustments would no longer be necessary during the school year, at which point the administration would communicate any changes to our daily procedures.

#### *Grammar School*

\*(significant changes in **bold**)

1. Drop off/Pick up

(Full Drop off and Pick up instructions can be found [here](#), or in the Providence App.)

All grammar school students **must be dropped off at the side entrance of the building** at the typical drive by drop off location. All students should be picked up in the same manner. If a parent needs to come into the building to speak to a teacher or someone in the office, they may. However, our preference is that the drop off/pick up line on the side of the building be used in all normal situations. **Grammar students will proceed**

**directly to their classroom upon arrival.**

2. Morning Prayer

**Morning Prayer will occur in grade-level classrooms** and will typically be led by the classroom teacher. Administrators will seek to lead individual classes as they are able.

3. Cohorts

**Grammar school grades will be paired with one or two other grades for lunch and recess** to keep numbers low and minimize interactions across grades. We will call these groups “cohorts”:

Blue Cohort: PreK-Kindergarten

Red Cohort: 1-2nd Grades

Orange Cohort: 3-4th Grades

White Cohort: 5-6th Grades

4. Recess

**Recess will be done in cohorts.** The Blue and Red cohorts will have both a morning and lunch recess. The Orange and White cohorts will just have a lunch recess. Recess will be monitored by one administrator and one parent. **Recess policies will be implemented that allow for social distancing.**

5. Lunch

Lunch will be done either **in classrooms** with the classroom teacher supervising, **or in the lunchroom in cohorts** with the two classroom teachers supervising. Students will **need to bring their own packed lunches each day** for school, as there will not be a school-offered lunch option this year.

6. PE

PE activities and guidelines will be adjusted based on the phased-out protocols from St. Louis County health officials.<sup>2</sup> We will also consult with Christian School Association of Saint Louis (CSASL) schools, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Metro Athletic Conference (MAC).

7. Extra time for Hygiene

Students will be given extra time during the day to wash or sanitize hands and desks.

*Upper School*

\*(significant changes in **bold**)

1. Drop off/Pick up

(Full Drop off and Pick up instructions can be found [here](#), or in the Providence App.)

Upper school students who are not driving themselves (or being driven by a sibling) **must be dropped off at the side entrance of the building** at the typical drive by drop off location. Upper school students who drive themselves will enter the main entrance. All students should be picked up in the same manner. **Upper school students will go directly to sanctuary upon arrival.**

<sup>2</sup> [“Resocialization of Sports in the St. Louis Region” Updated 6/9/20.](#)

2. Daily Schedule Changes  
**Monday through Friday will have the same bell schedule**, with every day having a slot for academic lab or chapel.
3. Morning Prayer  
Upper school students will meet in the sanctuary at the start of the day, maintaining social distancing, and using masks as necessary. An administrator or upper school faculty member will lead morning prayer and announcements. We will have spaced out seating (by cohort) in the sanctuary for morning prayer.
4. Classroom assignments  
**7-8th grades will have fixed classrooms for the whole school day.** We will **limit the number of classroom transitions** for 9-12th grades.
5. Cohorts  
Upper school grades will be joined with other grades to create a cohort:  
Middle School: 7-8th grade  
High School: 9-12th grade  
These cohorts will be utilized for lunch and academic/lab chapel sessions (see below for more details).
6. Lunch  
**We will have two upper school lunch slots.** The middle school cohort will eat lunch during the first slot from 11:45-12:15. The upper school cohort will eat lunch during the second slot from 12:15-12:45. Students will **need to bring their own packed lunches each day** for school, as there will not be a school-offered lunch option this year. Juniors and seniors will continue to have off-campus privileges during their lunch slot.
7. Chapel  
Chapel will continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays and **will be divided into the two upper school cohorts. Chapel sessions will rotate with lunch sessions**, so there will be separate chapel services for each upper school cohort.
8. Choir  
Choir will **meet in the sanctuary utilizing social distancing with masks.**
9. PEPE activities and guidelines will be adjusted based on the phased-out protocols from St. Louis County health officials.<sup>3</sup> We will also consult with Christian School Association of Saint Louis (CSASL) schools, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Metro Athletic Conference (MAC).
- 10.
11. Extra time for Hygiene  
Students will be given extra time during the day to wash or sanitize hands and desks.

<sup>3</sup> [“Resocialization of Sports in the St. Louis Region” Updated 6/9/20.](#)

## **Gatherings and Off-Campus Events**

With respect to any all school or off-campus events, we will first seek to adjust the event so we can have it as scheduled. If we cannot adjust the event, we will seek to reschedule. We will only cancel events if there is no other viable alternative.

### *Gatherings and Festivals*

Dates for first semester festivals (Literature Festival, Harvest Festival, March and Serve in the Park, Lessons and Carols) have been placed on the calendar, but remain tentative. At least one month out from an event, the administration will evaluate the circumstances and determine whether adjustment, postponement, or cancellation is necessary. **We will update the community via the weekly ePack.**

### *Field Trips*

Class field trips will be considered on a case by case basis, as venues are open and as we deem them safe. It is likely that some field trips that have occurred in previous years may need to be postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic.

### *Upper School Retreat*

**The upper school retreat has been postponed until the Spring.** Based on circumstance in the weeks leading up to the retreat, we will determine whether adjustment, postponement, or cancellation is necessary. The status of the retreat will be dependent, at least in part, on the availability and policies of the camp as well as our ability to maintain student safety at the camp.

### *Athletics*

Athletic activities will be adjusted based on the phased-out protocols from St. Louis County health officials.<sup>4</sup> We will also consult with Christian School Association of Saint Louis (CSASL) schools, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Metro Athletic Conference (MAC).

## **Technology**

Insofar as it is possible, Providence will continue to be a low-tech school. We will continue to maintain our values of face to face interaction and non-digitally mediated learning. However, there are a few adjustments we will be making to aid families should students or classes need to be out of the classroom for any amount of time.

### *Upper School*

**All upper school classes will have Google Classroom configured and utilized for assignment tracking in the upper school throughout the year.** All upper school students will have access

<sup>4</sup> [“Resocialization of Sports in the St. Louis Region” Updated 6/9/20.](#)

to their Providence email account and will be responsible for regularly checking it. At the start of the year in academic lab we will offer training for our younger students on how to manage their email account and Google Classrooms. Should a grade need to shift to home learning for any period of time, we will utilize Google Classrooms in a manner similar to last year.

### *Grammar School*

We have **deactivated grammar school Google Classrooms** from last year and will only create new ones for the coming year if a classroom teacher wishes to continue using it as a tool for communicating with parents. Grammar school student emails will be available should students be forced to move to home learning for any stretch of time. Should a grade need to shift to home learning for any period of time, we will utilize Google Classrooms in a manner similar to last year—though it is our strong desire to avoid this possibility in the grammar school.

## **PLANS FOR PARTIAL OR FULL SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING THE YEAR**

### **Partial School Closure**

If there is a positive diagnosis within their household or within a cohort to COVID, the plan would be to ask that cohort to move to a home learning plan for one to two weeks, or until such a time that the diagnosis is no longer a risk to the students within that cohort and the rest of the school. Since cohorts will be contained throughout school days, we will only move relevant cohort groups to home learning as necessary, allowing the rest of the school to remain in session. Siblings of students who would be part of quarantined cohorts will be allowed to resume in-school meetings with their own cohorts so long as they are not symptomatic and have not had a direct exposure themselves.

Should we be forced by government order to reduce the number of people in the school building at one time below our current size (students and staff), we will prioritize keeping the grammar school in the building over the upper school.

### **All School Closure**

In the event that the whole school needs to close, either for the sake of a widespread exposure within our community or a new order from governing authorities requiring schools to close, we will move again to our home learning plan until we are able to resume our in-school learning once again. Should we be forced by government order to go into home learning as a whole school for an extended length of time, we will offer the opportunity to apply for a partial tuition rebate. In this worst-case scenario, the revenue loss will have to be offset through across-the-board administration and faculty salary cuts. Again, we wish to reiterate that this is a worst case scenario that we plan on doing everything within our power to avoid. However, we also think it

wise to consider how we would deal with such a scenario.

## **CONCLUSION**

Again, please bear in mind that this plan is designed for us to be ready for the most extreme measures that may be necessary to keep school in session without resorting to home learning. Our desire is to remove aspects of this plan as they become unnecessary and it is advisable, which may happen as we arrive at the beginning of the year or gradually throughout the coming school year.

If you have particular questions or concerns, please inform the administration as soon as possible. We hope to keep an open line of communication throughout these changes and want to make sure our community is able to express any discomfort they may have with any parts of this plan.

Thank you for your trust and patience as we continue to navigate uncharted territory together. We are optimistic that this school year will be able to resume as scheduled and in-person with proper safety and minimal disruption. It will be a joy to gather together in the building once again, having been reminded of the value of personal gatherings in this past season and being secure in the safety measures we will be taking.

## **Frequently Asked Questions for the 20-21 School Year**

### **Is it really true that upper school boys will not be required to wear a tie while wearing a mask in school?**

*Yes, it's true. We recognize the combination of a tie with top button buttoned, as well as a mask is particularly constricting for our young men. Thus, we are not requiring upper school boys to wear a tie (though they are still welcome to). We are asking that upper school boys have their tie with them, stored nicely in their locker, in case it is needed at some point in the day. There will still be some days that require dress uniforms.*

### **Will the teachers be wearing clear/see-through masks so the students can see their faces?**

*Each faculty member has received a clear mask as well as a cloth mask so that students can see facial expressions and to help with listening comprehension. It will be up to individual faculty members which type of mask they wear depending on a variety of circumstances.*

### **Can face shields and masks be used interchangeably for faculty?**

*No. Per CDC guidelines, face shields are not a suitable replacement for face masks.*

### **Is there any situation in which a teacher can teach without a mask?**

*Teachers may teach without a mask when outside the building while maintaining social distancing.*

### **Do grammar school students in hallways need a mask?**

*Yes, in case they pass another class that is not in their cohort.*

### **When do upper school students need to wear a mask?**

*Throughout the school day, unless outside.*

### **Are families allowed to carpool with other families if their children cross cohorts?**

*We are leaving this up to families. There will obviously be some cross-cohort interaction within families themselves. We would ask you to consider having students wear masks if sharing a vehicle with students from another cohort.*

### **For Prek, do we also do the same amount of volunteer hours (25)?**

*No. We will reduce the amount of volunteer hours required for our PreK families. Families whose students are doing 3 days a week should contribute 15 hours. Those whose students are doing 2 days a week should contribute 10 hours.*

### **Is there a plan at this time to hold Shakespeare in a Week?**

*We plan to move forward with Shakespeare in a Week, performing King Lear this year. We don't know exactly what this will look like this year, but we will keep you updated as we make plans throughout the semester.*

**In addition to bringing paper towels instead of Clorox wipes, would it also be helpful to send in a disinfecting spray bottle as well?**

*It is not necessary to send a disinfecting spray bottle. Each classroom has already been supplied with a spray bottle and a safe disinfectant to be used on student desks and other commonly used surfaces. Our classroom teachers will be disinfecting those surfaces on a daily basis.*

**Will upperclassmen be allowed to leave campus during lunch?**

*Yes, they will be permitted to leave campus so long as they continue to wear masks while out in public in accordance with local county guidelines.*

**What are our plans for substitute teachers in light of COVID?**

*We have a few different people who have offered their services as substitutes for this coming school year including former parents and alumni who are doing their schooling from home this year. However, we imagine there may be a larger need this year than in previous years, so if you would have any availability to sub, please let the office know.*

**Is drop off going to start any earlier in light of the extra processes?**

*No, we will start at 8:00am as usual. However, we have added an additional five minutes to extend drop off time to 8:15pm to allow for added flexibility. Our faculty gathers for prayer before the start of each day up until 8:00am.*

**With the postponing the upper school retreat, do we still have a half day on Friday, September 4th?**

*Yes.*

**Could a teacher video teach from home if they are exposed but asymptomatic?**

*Yes. We are open to creative solutions to allow teachers to teach even if they are not permitted in the building due to quarantining. However, in many cases, if a teacher is required to be at home due to quarantining, the class may be as well.*

**Will students keep their cleaning supplies for personal use or drop them off to be stored and distributed to classrooms?**

*Grammar school students will keep their cleaning supplies for personal use throughout the year. Teachers will give guidance about where they are to be stored in the classroom. Upper school students will drop off their supplies in Homer and they will be shared across upper school classrooms.*

**Where will art and music meet?**

*Grammar school music will meet in grade-level classrooms. Upper school choir will meet in the sanctuary. Art will meet in grade-level classrooms when a mobile lesson is feasible, but will meet in the art room, socially distancing as much as possible. No art supplies will be communal, but students will have their own pack of materials that they will use through the year.*

**Will we still do normal tornado and fire drills?**

*We will still be doing drills, though they may be adapted to maintain cohort distancing.*



**Are we requiring a follow up negative test after someone has tested positive?**

*We will follow the county health officials guidelines about when to readmit someone who has previously tested positive.*

**If COVID test results take, for example, five days to come back, does the person stay home all five days?**

*Yes. Anyone who is waiting on test results to come back must quarantine during that period.*

**Let's say a 6th grader tests positive for COVID, does the entire cohort necessarily go into quarantine?**

*Not necessarily. Each situation may be different. We will consult with local health officials to determine who should quarantine in the case of any positive test.*

**Will we address with our students how to talk about the virus? About anyone who may receive a positive diagnosis?**

*Yes, we will equip our students to understand the seriousness of the overall situation, while seeking to remove any stigma associated with a positive test. At the same time, we recognize the need for the ability to be lighthearted about some of the difficulties we are facing in the midst of the pandemic. We will shepherd our students to understand what type of joking is and is not appropriate.*

**How will we communicate any illnesses or positive test results within the community?**

*We will seek to be as transparent as possible while protecting the privacy of our families. Ultimately all communication will be guided by the recommendations of local health authorities.*

**Will we have buddies this year?**

*This is still to be determined, but we are considering a number of creative solutions to maintain connections between the grammar and upper school students.*