



COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
"BETTER TOGETHER"

*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...and
so much the more as you see the Day approaching"
Hebrews 10:25*

We thank all of our families for their patience and prayers as we prepare our plans for the Covenant Christian School 2020-21 school year. We know that our school and our families function best in covenant community, and because the Charlotte Mason philosophy of education requires a dynamic relationship between teacher and student, we have developed a plan to resume on-campus learning for the 2020-21 school year. We are in a unique position to protect our students from exposure to large groups of students due to our small class size. Our goal is to open well on Tuesday, September 8, and stay open throughout the school year.

Our plan was devised with input from the CDC guidelines for re-opening schools, the Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools (“Forward Virginia”), and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We have communicated with professionals within our ChildLight Schools organization and other private Christian schools. We will be submitting a Phase 3 Reopening plan to the Virginia Council for Private Education as required by the state of Virginia.

Acknowledging that we cannot fully eliminate all risk, we are relying upon the American Academy of Pediatrics recent assertion which states “The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”



OUR RE-OPENING PLAN AS OF AUGUST 11, 2020

MORNING PROTOCOLS

After students are greeted by Mrs. Griffith on the porch, Mrs. Haupt will conduct discreet temperature checks as each child walks into the building. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or more will be required to return home. Providing this check will limit our exposure to illness. Parents will be asked to wait in the car until their child has been cleared before leaving campus. Mrs. Griffith will give you the all-clear signal once your child is on his or her way to class.

Parents are asked to notify the school if you have been exposed to someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days. A list of symptoms will be posted as a reminder to the CCS community.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Before school opens in September, the building will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. In addition to scheduled handwashing, students across the grades will be reminded to wash their hands regularly. Each student will be asked to bring their own sanitizer for personal use. Each classroom will also be equipped with a supply of hand sanitizer.

High touch surfaces in the classrooms and common areas will be cleaned routinely throughout the day. We have invested in nanotechnology coverings for our most frequently touched surfaces. We have also purchased additional equipment to disinfect the building at the end of each school day. Chore time will be different for our students this year. They will not be wiping down common areas or removing the trash as they have in the past. .

FACE COVERINGS

We are basing our face covering requirements on the “Forward Virginia,” CDC and AAP guidelines for face coverings.

Considering our extensive sanitation strategies, small class sizes, family-like atmosphere, and desire to reduce impediments to education, we are not requiring students to wear face coverings for the entire school day unless mandated in the future by governing bodies.

However, any reasonable strategy to protect ourselves and others is encouraged. Each student will be required to have a face covering available for situations where physical distancing is not feasible (for example when entering the school in a busy hallway, when in close proximity with others such as prayer buddies, science labs, partner projects etc.) Face coverings are therefore not required to be worn all day, but encouraged when necessary as communicated in the “Forward Virginia,” CDC and AAP guidelines. Families are welcome to request their child to wear a facial covering all day if that is their preference.

Staff and Teachers will wear a face covering when 1) it is not possible to maintain physical distancing; and/or 2) so long as the wearing of the face covering will not impede learning relative to student development and learning styles.

In the future, if the Virginia Governor mandates that students and teachers must wear face covering, we must follow the Governor’s mandate.

ABSENCE POLICY

CCS is suspending its absence policy for the 2020-21 school year and replacing it with the following guidelines:

The current CCS policy states that a student must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. This will change for the 2020-21 school year. Out of consideration for our Covenant families we are asking parents to keep students home if they are sick, even without a fever. If a fever does occur, students may return 48 hours after being fever-free without fever-reducing medications.

ABSENCE POLICY (CONT.)

Because we recognize that students potentially will have more absences from school this year, CCS will make accommodations through Google Meet for our students who are ill or in quarantine but feel well enough to participate in class.

If a child has developed symptoms while at school, we have identified an isolation room where we will monitor him or her. Parents will be asked to pick up children within one hour of presenting symptoms.

Staff, students and families should not come to school and should notify the Head of School if they or their child become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected cases.

Students and staff members who are diagnosed with Covid-19 will need to stay at home for a period of no less than 14 days. Positive Covid-19 cases must test negative before returning to school.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, OUTDOOR TIME, CHAPEL

We will have weekly chapel outside, weather permitting. Students will have more recess and outdoor time.

Under the guidance of a parent who has received certification in children's fitness, PE will occur at CCS with a focus on personal health, fitness, and exercise.

FIELD TRIPS

This year we will continue to have enrichment days. Families will drive to the site separately and enjoy a time of learning and fellowship.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

Parents are encouraged to remain outside to drop off or pick up students or items from school. However, all parents are welcome to enter the lobby if necessary.

As recommendations and/or requirements from the state of Virginia, the CDC, and the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) evolve, we will update our plan as needed.

It is our heart to allow our students to be able to learn in a safe and healthy environment that reflects the Charlotte Mason Methodology and the loving, home atmosphere of Covenant Christian School. We will keep you all informed of any changes to the CCS reopening plan as we must be flexible and willing to adapt to any changes that the government may make in the coming weeks and months. We are asking all Covenant families to keep Covenant Christian School lifted to the Lord in prayer for protection from the virus, wisdom, and safety for this 2020-21 school year.