

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Parents of St. Christopher's Day School Students
FROM: Pat Norton, Director and The Rev. Dr. Hillary D. Raining, Rector
RE: School Reopening Plans & Protocols
DATE: August 4, 2020

St. Christopher's Day School (the "School") is ready and equipped to educate your children according to the safety guidelines provided by national, state, county, Lower Merion School District and our St. Christopher's Church community. We are in a fortunate position to be able to maximize the use of our spacious campus for an open-air learning environment that is dynamic and safe.

Children thrive best in school around their peers and teachers. During our distance learning phase in the spring 2020, we learned what our students were missing most was human interaction, which is very hard to duplicate when working computer to computer. We believe that bringing back the people to people aspect, even when socially distanced or masked, is vital to better learning and happier children.

We have the utmost admiration for our faculty and staff for their willingness to offer in-person instruction to our students. We love our kids and our jobs, and we will do everything we can to mitigate risk for our School community.

Our school community has varying comfort levels and personal circumstances. By offering a distanced option, we hope to accommodate anyone who is unwilling or unable to place their child/children in an in-person setting.

There will be bumps along the way. Any number of hurdles may arise – student illness, teacher illness, state/local mandates, etc. Throughout the development of the pandemic, our School community revealed exceptional patience, understanding, resilience and support. More of this will likely be necessary along the way.

Below you will find our three major categories for our reopening: **Health & Safety, Teaching & Learning, and Operations & Facilities.**

Health & Safety

Our plan is based on the recommended safety guidelines from the CDC and other national agencies, the Pennsylvania Health Department, the Montgomery County Health Department, Lower Merion Health Advisory Council, Lower Merion School District, and CHOP. We relied upon this Policy Review document prepared by CHOP in formulating our protocols.

<https://policylab.chop.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/publications/Policy-Review-School-Reopenings-PolicyLab-2020.pdf>

Symptom Monitoring

Each morning, upon arrival at School, each child and other occupants of each family car, will be briefly screened before entering our school. Screening will include temperature taking and filling out a short screening questionnaire. We are all responsible for the safety of our school community. It will be critical that parents closely monitor the health of their children and keep sick children home.

It is imperative that we have all phone numbers for each family to be able to contact your family, if your child does not feel well while at school. Please make sure that the School's phone number, 610-649-3890, is listed in your phone contact list on your cell phones. This way, if we should place a call to you to come pick up your child due to illness, we will be able to reach you.

Hygiene Practices for Students and Staff

- All individuals in school will sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available in common areas, hallways, outside classrooms, the playground and other areas where sinks for hand washing are not available.
- Please help us promote the need for your child to not touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

Unless qualifying under Section 3 of the Order of the Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, students must wear face coverings (mask or face shield) when unable to maintain safe physical distancing, which predominantly will be inside the School building.

Below is a link to FAQ's regarding the order:

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order.pdf>

Suspected Contact with a Covid-Infected Person

If your child becomes infected with the virus or comes in close contact with someone from the School with the virus, please inform the School or the Rector immediately. We will ask that you follow the recommendations of the CDC in terms of quarantining the child and not allowing him or her to attend school until

either (i) 14 days has elapsed since contact occurred, or (ii) if in fact the child had the virus, until there is at least one negative test that the child is no longer infected.

If one of our students, teachers or staff person contracts the virus, the School will notify everyone who came in contact with the child, teacher, or Church staff person keeping the name of the child, teacher or staff 's name confidential. The School is likely to shut down for some time period up to 14 days and you will be informed about that immediately. We will revert to distance learning at that time.

Teaching and Learning

Our plan to teach in-person safely revolves around the key concepts of physical distancing, limited cross-utilization of space and readiness to implement hybrid and/or distance learning.

Academic Calendar

Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, it is our intention to follow the typical school calendar (more information to follow) regarding start and end dates as well as breaks. As is customary, we typically follow the Lower Merion School District calendar. We believe there is some chance that Lower Merion will be completely virtual to start the school year, as they do not have sufficient facilities for adequate social distancing. Our facilities, including our beautiful campus, has sufficient room to safely social distance. If at all possible, while Lower Merion may be entirely virtual, the School will try to offer in-person schooling.

Physical Distancing/Masks

We are planning to utilize our outside space as much as possible for teaching, learning, playing and distance socializing. Science is solid that the chances of contracting the virus while outside are very small, so our plan is to utilize the outside as much as we can. Students, teachers, and staff will be required to wear masks in any circumstance where social distancing cannot be consistently maintained, which will include always wearing a mask while inside the School buildings. In several cases, we will need to utilize additional spaces on campus (outdoor and indoor) and rearrange or replace furniture to allow for appropriate distancing in a group setting. For example, we will be removing all our cubbies. Once the cubbies are removed, we will set up and distance individual Rubbermaid containers for all the children's belongings.

Our distancing procedures will continue to be evaluated as we move towards the opening of school and we will be sending out updates during August.

Students and teachers will be taking every opportunity to be outside in “our classrooms without walls or ceilings”. Children will be encouraged to play, explore and learn in a natural environment. The teachers at the School are very excited to maximize the use of our beautiful campus. We know from experience that we see more creativity, more engagement, enhanced social skills and advanced problem solving when we spend extended periods of time outdoors.

Hybrid/Distance Learning

We would like to offer the opportunity for any family who is uncomfortable or unable to access in-person learning to join school remotely. Indeed, this may be a necessity for many or all if illness occurs or authorities mandate a return to distance learning. To help in our preparations, we ask any family electing to choose distance learning for health reasons during the fall 2020 semester to notify the Director, Pat Norton, (mpdnort52@gmail.com) no later than August 21, 2020.

Operations & Facilities

We are taking proactive steps to foster continued good health and promote a clean environment at School, with improvements being made this summer to our facilities and enhancements in our approach to maintenance and custodial activities.

Personal Sanitizing

The entire church and school campus, from the Parish Hall to the school bathrooms, to the kitchen and the playground, have been professionally sanitized this summer. We will be displaying simple picture signage to remind everyone of the importance and proper methods of hand washing. We will be washing hands or using hand sanitizer several times while at school. Please work with your child at home on the proper way to wash his or her hands. Again, we will be working with your child to promote, with parents help, the need to NOT touch their eyes, noses and mouths.

Early Dismissal for a Sick Child

If you child should become ill while at school, we will promote isolation and protection for a sick child, awaiting pick-up. Please make sure that you always

have your cell phone with you and your phone is turned on when your child is at school. Also, please make sure that St. Christopher's Day School's phone number, 610-649-3890 is listed in your contact list on your phone so you will be able to see that the school is calling. If you receive a phone call from the School, please be prompt in picking up your child.

Cleaning Practices

We are strengthening our custodial practices to include more frequent disinfectant cleaning of all regularly used surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, banisters, walls, and implementing after hours UV light wands for cleansing equipment. Expanded custodial practices will include more frequent HVAC filter replacements.

Ventilation

Whenever possible, teachers will use outdoor spaces as well as open doors and/or windows to maximize air flow in classrooms.

What We Don't Know

What will the governmental authorities require? Despite our best planning, we are ultimately subject to higher authorities. Updated mandates or phase-changes could impact our decisions and bring about a return to online instruction or changes with in-person schooling.

What about special events? It is likely that any event that brings groups of people together (i.e. Halloween Party, Christmas Show, etc.) will be canceled or postponed. Specific information will be released closer to the dates of each program.

Parent Support – We Need Your Help to Make This Year Go!

We are responsible for the safety of our school community. It will be critical that parents closely monitor the health of their children and keep sick children home. It is also vital that parents support our safety policies and encourage their children to do the same. Because these measures are critical to the safety of all, students or parents who fail to comply with our safety

requirements and protocols jeopardize the well being of our community and therefore may be restricted from in-person learning.

Accessing Campus

While we realize that there will be times a parent may need to access campus, we would like to limit visits as much as possible during the school day. If the need does arise, we ask that the parent contact the main number for St. Christopher's Church in advance at 610-642-8920. Please check in with the office through the intercom at the lower door in the parking lot. Please maintain appropriate social distancing and please wear a mask.

Communication

We will send another communication the week of August 10, 2020. Please know that there are still many details to be decided upon, not only our School procedures, but also based on evolving information from higher authorities. St. Christopher's Day School stands ready to adapt and update when necessary to establish a positive and productive year.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact, Pat Norton, Director, (mpdnort52@gmail.com or cell phone 484-995-2692).

