



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF MYRTLE BEACH
RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

July 30, 2020

Providing Academic Excellence in a Christ-centered Environment

OVERVIEW

As we continue in the tradition of providing academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment, we strongly believe in and feel called by God to return to in-person instruction. We love your family and children, and we wish to continue to serve our Lord and partner with you in the best possible ways. We continue to carefully consider the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students as we make plans for the 2020-2021 school year, and we have based these return to school guidelines upon the recommendations from the CDC, continuing conversations with local physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, along with return to school recommendations from our accrediting agencies: ACSI, Cognia, and SCISA, along with many weeks of research and prayerful consideration and discussion.

- We recognize that during this time our families, community and nation have been impacted in a variety of ways from COVID-19.
- The Christian Academy Leadership Team and Board of Trustees continue to lift this situation to the Lord in prayer.
- We also have made a commitment to continue to remain prayerful, flexible, and discerning as decisions are made.

The deepest level of respect, compassion, and care for all students, faculty, staff and visitors will be maintained during this time. Christian Academy will return to a 5 day per week, in-person learning environment beginning August 17, 2020.

HEALTHY SAINTS, HEALTHY CA COMMUNITY

Our plan for returning to school on-site is based on the premise of a “Healthy Only” framework for returning to school. This plan requires parents and employees to ensure that only healthy individuals are permitted on campus. To support and enforce this approach, parents will be required to sign a legally-binding waiver of liability and agree to the information in this plan. A “Healthy Only” framework provides the greatest level of normalcy possible, but this plan also depends on students and employees remaining at home if they display any COVID-like symptoms. Per our commitment to excellence and in our ongoing partnership with families, personal responsibility is more important than ever to protect the health of our entire school community. Violators may lose their privilege to return to campus for the duration of the pandemic.

The school facilities will receive increased levels of cleaning and sanitizing, as well as increased containment of groupings of students (cohort grouping). However, the disruption to typical classroom routines will be minimized to the greatest extent possible in order to support student and staff social-emotional health, as well as continue to implement best practices of instruction.

The following is an outline of details that will be in place as school opens; please kindly remember that this plan must be flexible, as new information continues to become available and is subject to change.

SAINTS CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- Maintaining Christian Academy mission & vision, including admissions standards
- Focusing on development of the whole child
- Strengthening social/emotional/mental health
- Nurturing strong relationships
- Continuing to keep health and safety as top priorities

“Generally speaking, Christian schools place high importance on the value of community for their students, families, and employees. The findings of the Cardus Education Survey (2018) confirm this, as graduates of Protestant schools reported a higher quality of relationships within their school communities (with teachers, administrators, and other students)” states ACSI’s lead researcher, Dr. Lynn Swaner, in *Christian Schools and COVID-19: Responding Nimbly, Facing the Future* in May, 2020.

Limited Remote Learning If Required

- Our intention is to return to school and to remain in school, 5 days a week for learning to occur at optimal levels. We are and will continue to work closely with families daily to ensure what is best for each student.
- We do not intend to discount tuition, regardless of the duration of remote learning, it being our intent and purpose to return to on-campus instruction as soon as possible, and recognizing that expenses related to our operations, faculty and staff are fixed costs.
- Students that temporarily remain home due to illness or preexisting conditions will continue learning by working closely with the teaching faculty, school nurse, and attendance office.
- We understand that there may be situations where students are around others at home who may be sick or vulnerable or are required to remain out of school for an extended period of time for a self-quarantine.

SAINTS HEALTH & SAFETY

- Regularly scheduled hand washing & sanitizing
- Frequent cleaning of desktops, surfaces, doorknobs, tables in the classrooms
- An additional cleaning person added as part of the team to clean bathroom facilities during the day
- Water fountains being modified into bottle filling stations
- Upholstery and carpets have been thoroughly disinfected and cleaned
- New UV lights installed in duct work (kills viruses and bacteria)
- Visitors will be subject to health screenings and visitors may be limited, if needed, throughout the year.

Face Coverings/Masks

- We understand that face coverings help to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When distancing is not possible, such as in the hallways and in common areas where social distancing is not possible, masks will be strongly encouraged.
- Christian Academy will provide a cloth mask for each staff member and student.
- We will have a supply of disposable masks for employees, students, and visitors should they need one.
- A face shield will be available for all faculty and staff members.



MONITORING HEALTH OF STUDENTS, STAFF, & FACULTY

Daily Health Monitoring At Home

- Parent screening for temperature and other health concerns at home.
- Please keep your child home if he or she is experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
- Please help us keep school healthy by staying home if you are ill and by isolating from those in your home who are ill.
- If faculty or students become ill, please notify the school nurse.

Daily Health Monitoring At School

- Temperature screenings at school, as needed
- Isolating students who present with symptoms of fever, sore throat, coughing until parent pick up
- Students or staff who become ill should stay home until clearance from a physician is given or recovery is made after 10-14 days, with 3 consecutive fever-free days, without use of fever reducers.

If necessary, COVID-19 testing may be required to confirm no contagion and that the student is safe to resume his/her physical presence at school.

DISTANCING STRATEGIES

- Small class sizes
- Reduce use of shared materials
- Modify dismissal and class change procedures
- Increase opportunities for outdoor recesses, lunch, classes, and activities
- Chapel will resume upon return to school, with distancing in place
- PEP Club will be continued through use of the PA system and remaining in class each Wednesday morning, with the hope of

being able to resume regular PEP Clubs as soon as it is safe to do so.

- Advisory groups will be postponed (because of close proximity and multi grade level groups).
- Significantly reduce numbers in, along with modified schedule and rotation of cohort groups in:
 - hallways
 - recess
 - lunch
 - K-5 will have individual recesses for elementary students in cohort group in the morning and afternoon
 - field trips, retreats, and other off-campus learning experiences will continue to be evaluated for safety prior to scheduling

SAINTS ATHLETICS

We have been careful to follow the SCISA recommended guidelines for return to athletics all summer. Coaches, parents, and players have been given the SCISA and CA guidelines, and we are all working together to ensure the health and safety of participants.

CONCLUSION

Recently the CDC shared helpful information that discussed schools and their importance in the development of the whole child. This includes the educational, social, emotional, mental, nutritional, physical components of a healthy life. Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with the goal of having students be physically present at school. Policies are intended to mitigate but may not eliminate risks

associated with COVID-19. Much new information is being released (international statistics about contact tracing, studies from the YMCA and ACSI, Johns Hopkins University, Brown University, Harvard University, and other local, state and national data) indicating that the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains very low in children. Implementation of several coordinated plans can greatly reduce risk. We will continue to work diligently to remain flexible and clear about new information that is helpful to decision making as it relates to the safety of all. We also ask for your support and continued partnership from home.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let your hearts not be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:26-27

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF MYRTLE BEACH COVID-19 WAIVER

Please sign and return the following document no later than the first day of school.

Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability **Relating to Contagious Diseases, including COVID-19**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

As a result of COVID-19, and in anticipation of the potential arrival of other seasonal contagious diseases, which may include MRSA, influenza, and other strains of coronavirus, Christian Academy, Inc. ("CA") has put in place protective measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other contagious diseases; however, CA cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19 or another contagious disease. Further, attending activities on the campus of CA, or traveling to other locations as a participant, spectator or provider of transportation in activities sponsored by CA, all of which could increase your risk and your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19 or other contagious diseases.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of diseases which include COVID-19, and on behalf of myself, my child(ren), my and spouse/co-parent of child(ren) voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I, and any member of my family, may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 or any other contagious disease by attending activities on CA campus, or while traveling to other locations as a participant, spectator or provider of transportation in activities sponsored by CA, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 or any other contagious disease while on CA campus or traveling to other locations as a participant, spectator or provider of transportation in activities sponsored by CA, which may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, CA employees, agents and representatives, volunteers, program participants and their families and/or any other individual who may be present upon school property or in attendance at any school activity.

I voluntarily agree to assume, on behalf of myself, my child(ren), and my spouse/co-parent of child(ren) all risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren), myself and any member of my family, (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I, my child(ren) and/or members of my family may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s attendance in activities or participation in CA programming ("Claims").

On my behalf, and on behalf of my children and/or members of my family, I will advance no claim and I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, defend, indemnify and hold harmless CA, its employees, directors, trustees, agents, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all

liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of CA, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 or other contagious disease infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any CA activity.

To prevent the spread of contagious diseases, including COVID-19, and to reduce the potential risk of exposure to all parties, we are conducting a simple screening questionnaire with this waiver. Your participation is important to help us take precautionary measures to protect you, your child(ren) and everyone on campus. Please circle your answers.

1. *Has your child had close contact with or been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the 30 days?*
****YES NO**
2. *Has your child experienced any of the symptoms below in the last 14 days? ***
(fever, chills, cough, sore throat, respiratory illness, difficulty breathing, or loss of taste or smell)
YES NO
3. *If my Child(ren) develop(s) any of the above symptoms I will keep them home, notify the CA's Administration and seek medical care to obtain a physician's note stating it is safe to return to participation.* **YES NO**

** If the answer is "yes" to questions 1 or 2, access to CA campus or live activities will be denied until a physician's note is delivered to CA's Administration.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS WAIVER, AND FREELY AND KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE RISK AND WAIVE MY RIGHTS CONCERNING LIABILITY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor Child(ren)

Date

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Name of Student(s)

Signature of 2nd Parent/Guardian Minor Child(ren)

Date

Print Name of 2nd Parent/Guardian

Name of Student(s)

Signature of Student 18 Years of Age or Older

Date

Print Name of Student 18 Years of Age or Older