



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF MYRTLE BEACH

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Published August 4, 2021

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, and we did so last year for 180 days. Our faculty and staff did a remarkable job last year serving young people and their families. 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 2021-2022 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.

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. 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. 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 high touch surfaces
- An additional cleaning person added as part of the team to clean bathroom facilities during the day

- Water fountains modified into bottle filling stations
- Upholstery and carpets have been thoroughly disinfected and cleaned
- UV lights will be maintained in duct work
- Visitors will be subject to health screenings and visitors may be limited, if needed, throughout the year.

Face Coverings/Masks

- CA students and staff have the option of wearing a face covering while on campus; they will not be required. Parents who desire for their child(ren) to wear a face covering during school hours will need to have that conversation with them, as CA staff will not be responsible for holding students accountable.

MONITORING HEALTH OF STUDENTS, STAFF, & FACULTY

Daily Health Monitoring At Home

- Parent screening for temperature and other health concerns at home. If your child has a fever, please keep him/her at home until fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- 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 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.

SAINTS ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

We have been careful to follow the SCISA recommended guidelines for athletics and activities. 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

According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP), “at this time, it still appears that severe illness due to COVID-19 is rare among children” in the U.S. — an outcome [other countries](#) are experiencing as well (July 26, 2021). 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 as we implement and maintain a healthy-only policy at CA.

We are grateful for you and your family. Thank you for partnering with us this year! We are encouraged again by the Truth of God’s Word:

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