

# PHASED SCHOOL REOPENING HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

Dear Parents,

In approaching the new academic year, the Trustees of Mount Calvary Christian School have attempted to put together a quality Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan. This plan for a 5-day, in-person educational program is based on values outlined below. M CCS will also provide a personalized online learning program with credentialed teachers for interested families/students in all grades. Although we must create rules to run the school, we want to make it clear that we are principle-driven, not a law-driven entity.

The following document contains broad sweeps, but at each point, the school is preparing a more detailed execution. It is important that parents reflect on the values that drive a healthy school, not only the restraints and obligations of structures.

This document was prepared by the Pandemic Team through consultation with expert organizations, observations of international school parallels, and State recommendations. However, it is centrally grounded in Christian values. We are committed to the Christian principles that drive our institution.

We believe that it is important to create structures based not simply on physical safety and health, but also on spiritual, emotional and psychological safety. For example, distancing, regimentation, and face coverings both protect the health of students and could potentially hurt them in unknown ways. A health and safety plan must reflect the overall emotional safety of all children.

Additionally, our primary purpose as a school is to create a spiritually healthy learning environment. Our vision is to “develop students who love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, prepared intellectually and socially to overcome the challenges of the 21st century with humility, boldness, and Spirit-filled joy in the application of the global fulfillment of the Great Commission” (Mk. 12:30-31).



**PURSuing CHRIST  
PREPARING STUDENTS**

## TO THIS END, HERE ARE A FEW OF THE VALUES BY WHICH WE WILL APPROACH THIS YEAR:

**Sacrificial Love:** John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

**The No Harm Rule:** Romans 13:10 "Love never does anything that is harmful to a neighbor."

**Restrained Liberty:** Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

**Governmental Respect:** Romans 13:1 "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

**Boldness:** 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

**Strength in Weakness:** 2 Corinthians 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

**Bearing one another's burdens:** Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

We are a community of love and respect. This requires that we have deference to the weak and vulnerable. Yet, we are also not supposed to live in fear or psychologically harm the school population with restrictions. This requires that we move forward with care and optimism. That is what the year holds for us at Mount Calvary.

Thank you for your patience, for your love, and for your support as we move forward together in optimism in all that God has for us in the coming months.

Dr. Sheard



## HOW WILL MOUNT CALVARY CLEAN, SANITIZE, DISINFECT, AND VENTILATE LEARNING SPACES, SURFACES, AND OTHER AREAS USED BY STUDENTS AND STAFF (I.E., RESTROOMS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, HALLWAYS, AND TRANSPORTATION)?

The cleaning and sanitation procedure has been reviewed and updated by appropriate staff to prepare for a safe and successful return to school. The entire school will be sanitized each day, with frequently used spaces undergoing repeated cleanings within the school day--rails, doorknobs, tables, etc. The custodial staff will use ionizing sanitizers to do deep cleaning in all classrooms and offices at the end of every day. The playground will be disinfected when necessary and feasible (exceptions being weather issues, non-use, etc.). Classrooms will be wiped down several times a day if there is a turnover of students. Special-use classrooms will have wipe-down protocol--labs, computer labs, etc. Teacher workstations will be sanitized upon teacher turnover at the secondary level.

Commercial-grade cleaning products that meet OSHA and CDC requirements have already been purchased. Extra gloves, hand sanitizers, and caution tape will be used where appropriate. Multiple cleaning products will be in every room, along with gloves, and paper towels, and hand sanitizer. Ventilation will be a key priority. Teachers will teach with the windows open and there will be air circulation as much as possible. Every aspect of the school day has been analyzed to make healthy decisions with regard to scheduling and student movement.



## HOW WILL CLASSROOM/LEARNING SPACE OCCUPANCY ALLOW FOR 6 FEET OF SEPARATION AMONG STUDENTS AND STAFF THROUGHOUT THE DAY, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE?

Learning spaces will be organized and arranged to mitigate spread. MCCS will follow key social distancing recommendations and maximize distance between students. Workspace allocations will follow proportional occupancy percentages to make full use of floor space. In shared workspaces, individual desks will be distanced. Unnecessary furniture will be removed from the room to increase distancing between students. Movement between classrooms will be minimized through scheduling. When necessary and feasible, class changes will be minimized to reduce the number of students in the hallways in close proximity. Protocols for classroom/learning space occupancy will arrange for 6 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day to the maximum extent feasible. The school will limit the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces as well as interactions between groups of students. Students will be grouped to limit class sizes proportionally to the size of the room to maximize social distancing for the allotted space. Students will eat lunch in their classrooms to reduce the traffic in the most frequently utilized common spaces during the lunch periods.

## HOW WILL MCCS RESTRICT THE USE OF CAFETERIAS AND OTHER CONGREGATE SETTINGS AND WHAT WILL BE THE PROTOCOL FOR SERVING MEALS IN ALTERNATE SETTINGS SUCH AS CLASSROOMS?

Students will eat in their classrooms or outside when possible, and the school will continue to provide boxed hot lunches to be delivered to the classes if the student orders a lunch that morning. The cafeteria will not be used or will be extremely restricted. Congregate settings, like the chapel area, may be used with spacing protocols at dismissal time. Locker access will be restricted, staggered, or eliminated. Alternative fields will be opened up for recess. Playground schedules will be created to reduce the number of students on the playground at one time.



## WHAT WILL BE THE HYGIENE PRACTICES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF?



Hygiene practices will be centered around personal responsibility. Students will be given training in how to care for themselves and others in collective settings. The value-system of the Christian School will exemplify biblical deference toward others. There will be extra hand washing requirements in the lower grades and interval hand washing at the secondary level. There will be the installation of additional sinks in the church building. Students will be given the responsibility to keep the spaces clean. Elementary grade hand washing practices will be developed, shared, and implemented in collaboration with the school physician, school nurse, and governmental guidelines. Training will be provided to all staff and students as appropriate to ensure that hygiene practices are followed to the maximum extent possible. School books, notebooks, and materials will stay in the possession of the student when feasible. Sharing materials is not permitted except when technology is shared, and in this case, items will be wiped down between uses whenever possible. Each student will have his or her own personal items. Students will not be permitted to share supplies, food, writing implements, etc.

## HOW WILL SIGNAGE BE POSTED TO MITIGATE SPREAD AND ENCOURAGE PROTECTIVE MEASURES?

Signage will be placed around the school in highly visible areas to remind students, staff, and visitors of expectations. Signage will be age-appropriate.



## WHAT IS A 'FACE COVERING' AND WHAT ARE MCCS PROTOCOLS FOR FACE COVERINGS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF?

"Face covering' means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A 'face covering' can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. 'Face coverings' may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels" (PA Dept. of Education, July 2020).

The Pennsylvania Department of Education issued guidelines for face coverings on July 1, 2020 with additional subsequent directives. Mount Calvary Christian School intends to honor those directives. See this web site:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Waivers/MaskWearing/Pages/default.aspx>

## HOW WILL MCCS BE LIMITING NON-ESSENTIAL VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS INTO THE SCHOOL?



School visitations will be limited to essential school personnel only. All visitors will need approval of the building administration or staff prior to entering the building and must follow all pre-established protocols. Parents and guardians who want access to the building office will communicate this to the office prior to the start of the school day. If this is not possible, the visitor will have to be approved to enter the building and will need to follow all health and safety procedures established by the MCCS Trustee Board, including a short pre-entry screening questionnaire.

## HOW WILL I 'SIGN IN' MY CHILD IF HE/SHE IS LATE?

Late students will be signed in through the PikMyKid app on their phone. If that is not possible, the parent will buzz the secretary and release the child to the secretary at the door. Secondary students may enter themselves once they have been signed in on PikMyKid. (PikMyKid information & orientation to follow.)



## HOW WILL MCCS BE HANDLING SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR RECESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES CONSISTENT WITH THE CDC CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUTH SPORTS?

Student athletics and sports activity will follow CDC and PIAA guidelines as well as the Mount Calvary Christian School Athletics Health and Safety Plan to the maximum extent possible. Details are found in those documents on the Internet and on our website. As a general rule, all participants must wash hands at the start and end of each activity, and they must maintain social distancing and follow wipe down mandates put in place by the Athletic Department.



## HOW WILL MOUNT CALVARY BE LIMITING THE SHARING OF MATERIALS AMONG STUDENTS?

There will be a limited sharing of equipment. Sanitization of equipment will take place at regular intervals. Students are required to bring their own water bottles because we will not be using water fountains, but we are working to install touchless water bottle fillers in both buildings. Students will be encouraged to have their own playground toys when permitted.

## HOW WILL MCCS BE STAGGERING THE USE OF COMMUNAL SPACES AND HALLWAYS?



MCCS will use methods of staggering the use of: recess areas, communal spaces, and hallways and will ensure regular cleaning. The library will be closed for students, but books will be checked out by the Internet and delivered to the student. There will be increased use of exterior spaces for lunch—paved courtyard and athletic fields. Locker rooms will have limited access according to protocols.

## HOW WILL MCCS BE ADJUSTING TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES AND PRACTICES TO CREATE SOCIAL DISTANCE BETWEEN STUDENTS?

Students will have to follow the rules that are assigned by each of the 8 districts that bus children to MCCS, as well as the rules that are established for the Mount Calvary bus. We assume that bus companies that transport to MCCS follow legal recommendations. We do not control the bus transportation of other districts. Parents are responsible for making decisions about when and how the student will ride the bus. Mount Calvary Christian School transportation services will follow PDE seating guidelines to the maximum extent feasible.

## HOW WILL MCCS BE LIMITING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN CLASSROOMS AND OTHER LEARNING SPACES, AND INTERACTIONS BETWEEN GROUPS OF STUDENTS?

Classroom spaces are appropriated based on square footage and maximizing social distancing. Building schedules and procedures will be evaluated to limit classroom movement between spaces and interactions between groups of students to the maximum extent possible. Students will be divided into smaller groups and cohorts as much as possible.



## WHAT BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL OPTIONS DO I HAVE FOR MY CHILD(REN) IN K4 - GRADE 5?

The school will run a before-school Bible devotion program for interested children/families beginning at 6:30 a.m. It will also host a Power Hour until 4 p.m. Student pick-up will be possible during this structured spiritual discipleship educational program. Afterschool Care will not take place on-site. Parents will be responsible to find their own childcare options beyond structured school activities. Parents will be provided a list of viable childcare facilities in the area.

## AS A PARENT, AM I REQUIRED TO MONITOR MY OWN CHILD'S HEALTH AND ARE STAFF REQUIRED TO SELF-MONITOR FOR SYMPTOMS AND HISTORY OF COVID-19 EXPOSURE?

Mount Calvary is a community where people care about others. Parents are asked to perform temperature and symptom screening of their children and keep them home if their temperature is above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Staff will self-monitor in the same manner.



## HOW WILL THE SCHOOL ISOLATE AND QUARANTINE STUDENTS, STAFF, OR VISITORS IF THEY BECOME SICK OR DEMONSTRATE A HISTORY OF EXPOSURE WHILE AT SCHOOL?

The school has moved and expanded the nurse’s office to permit quarantining. Symptomatic children at school will be quarantined in the nurse’s office for examination. Temperature reporting and checks will be on a self-disclosure basis, but if a teacher wants to refer a student for potential sickness, the nurse will remove the student for an evaluation. If a child becomes ill, s/he will be quarantined in the nurse’s office for examination and pickup by the parent. The nurse will be responsible for tracking decisions regarding quarantine or isolation requirements of staff or students.

## HOW DOES THE SCHOOL INTEND TO RETURN ISOLATED STAFF, STUDENTS, OR VISITORS TO SCHOOL?

The student (or their parent/guardian on the student’s behalf) or faculty member that tests positive for COVID-19 must disclose the positive test result to the school office or administration, who will then inform the MCCS Pandemic Response Team Point of Contact. A student or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19 must be quarantined at home. A return date will be established upon consultation with a licensed medical provider and district health personnel. Students or staff who are exposed by ‘close contact’ to a person identified as a confirmed COVID-19 carrier will be disallowed from school, and a return date will be established upon consultation with a licensed medical provider and district health personnel. Close contact is defined by the CDC as, “someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.” A student or staff member who has symptoms of COVID-19 may not return to school until s/he is cleared by a licensed medical provider.



## HOW WILL THE SCHOOL NOTIFY STAFF, FAMILIES, AND THE PUBLIC OF SCHOOL CLOSURES AND WITHIN-SCHOOL-YEAR CHANGES IN SAFETY PROTOCOLS?

MCCS will notify families of school closure during the year through the FACTS Emergency Notification System. School districts that bus to MCCS will be notified through the transportation coordinators of their respective schools.



## HOW WILL MCCS PROTECT STUDENTS AND STAFF AT HIGHER RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS, AND WHAT ARE THE UNIQUE SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS OR OTHER VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS?

Where students and staff are at higher risk for severe illness, increased distances will be practiced. MCCS believes that all students should be healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.. The at-risk student plan addresses those with both health and academic risks. It also supports students who stay home through dedicated online teacher support and academic instruction. We will practice, as we always do, success mentoring. There will be beginning-of-the-year 'on-boarding' of students and staff about language, discrimination, and care/love in a difficult time.



## HOW WILL STAFF BE DEPLOYED STRATEGICALLY DURING THIS PERIOD?

Throughout these educational changes, we will do everything we can to sustain the mental and physical health of teachers. Teachers will be deployed or redeployed to alleviate student needs throughout the school.



**MOUNT CALVARY**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL