



ReStart Plan 2020-2021

*Staying Well. Caring Well. Learning Well.*

The plan to open Mansfield Christian School for the 2020-2021 school year is designed to keep our school community safe and healthy while also providing the greatest level of “normalcy” for the educational experience. Our goal is to both *stay well and care well*.

We believe that our plan includes a reasonable approach to beginning school on the regularly scheduled start date of August 25 with students on campus full-time. We do not plan to make any changes to the school calendar at this time, nor utilize a hybrid of blended learning strategies, staggered starts, or online only instruction. However, we will continue to evaluate potential changes in the virus trends and respond to the Governor’s directives accordingly should this become necessary and prudent.

Using information gathered from the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and local health professionals, we have developed a plan based on a “healthy only” framework for reopening the MCS campus. This framework requires employees and parents to ensure that only healthy individuals are entering the campus. A “healthy only” framework depends on employees and students to remain home if they display any flu-like symptoms or have been in contact with others who are symptomatic.

While the school facilities will receive increased levels of cleaning and sanitizing and the leadership team has outlined daily changes to promote behaviors that reduce the spread of viruses, the disruption to the typical classroom routines will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. We believe this approach aligns well with the published research/guidelines in order to support staff and student’s physical and social-emotional health as well as best practices of instruction.

With these principles in mind, the following plan identifies the protocols that MCS will have in place when students return to school in August. This plan is not exhaustive and does not address every aspect of the school day. Additionally, while the school will be very vigilant to ensure the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete mitigation of risk will take place. To this end, each family will be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to the first day of school (document attached).

MCS will be ready to welcome your family in August, and we are committed to being BETTER TOGETHER! We want our plan to be another means of partnering with your family in the education of children. Thank you again for your commitment to Christian schooling at MCS and may God grant us health and safety as we serve Him. *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)*

Please contact us if you have further questions or concerns at [mcsinfo@mcsflames.org](mailto:mcsinfo@mcsflames.org).



## **ATHLETICS**

- Comply with all mandates provided by the Ohio Department of Health, Richland Public Health, the OHSAA, and NFHS.
  - If interscholastic sports are not permitted, MCS will explore the development of an intramural sports program for our students.
  - All athletes will complete the OHSAA COVID-19 monitoring sheets before all practices and competitions which include a temperature check. All responses for each person will be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19.
  - Any person with positive symptoms reported will not be permitted to take part in workouts and must immediately contact his/her primary care provider or other appropriate health care professional. In order to return to competition, the athlete must be cleared by their primary care provider first.
  - There must be no shared water bottles, clothing, or athletic equipment (towels, clothing, shoes, or sports-specific equipment) between students.
  - All athletic equipment will be cleaned after each use and prior to the next workout/game.
  - When carpooling for athletic events, please respect the wishes of the driver/vehicle owner regarding wearing face coverings.
  - It is recommended that athletes, coaches, staff, and participants wear a face covering when not actively engaged in physical activity and cannot adhere to social distancing (3 – 6 ft.).
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## **FOOD SERVICE**

- Full service hot lunch and a la carte items will still be served daily.
  - Reduce the number of students during one lunch period to allow for greater spacing at lunch tables.
  - Ensure adequate spacing while waiting in line to pick up hot lunch or a la carte items.
  - Ensure serving areas and tables are cleaned between lunches.
  - Ensure students wash hands before eating lunch.
  - Food items will be individually covered.
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## **CLASSROOMS & FACILITIES**

- A thorough deep cleaning will occur throughout the building before school begins.
- Ongoing cleaning and disinfecting of common areas and frequently touched surfaces (door handles and handrails).
- Daily cleaning of desks in classrooms.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the hallways and common areas for ease of access and students will be encouraged to use them frequently.
- Installation of touch free paper towel dispensers in bathrooms.
- Daily washing of hands and/or use of hand sanitizer upon entering the building, at lunchtime, and at the end of the school day.
- Use of hand sanitizer as students move from classroom to classroom.
- Directional reminders for student flow of traffic in hallways to maximize physical distance.
- Classrooms stocked with proper supplies for frequent cleaning.



## GUESTS & PARENTS

- All guests, parents and visitors are required to have temperatures checked in order to enter the school during school hours.
- In an effort to reduce exposure from outside sources, visitors will be extremely limited in the school building. All guests, parents, and visitors are required to wear a face covering in common areas.
- Unless pre-arranged, parents should not enter the building during drop-off or pick-up.
- PreK & Kindergarten parents, wearing masks or face shields, will be permitted to accompany their child to their classroom for the first day of school.



## HEALTH SCREENING & WAIVER

- Temperatures of all persons (e.g., students, employees, parents) will be checked upon arrival each morning.
- The identification of COVID-19 symptoms helps to prevent the spread. Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. The CDC reports that COVID-19 is mainly spread through contact with an infected person's respiratory droplets.
- Do not come to school if you have any **ONE of the following**:
  - ✓ Body temperature of 100°F or higher
  - ✓ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - ✓ Persistent cough
  - ✓ Chills
  - ✓ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - ✓ Loss of taste or smell
- Do not come to school if you have any **TWO of the following**:
  - ✓ Body aches
  - ✓ Headache
  - ✓ Sore throat
  - ✓ Runny nose or congestion
- Please see the last page of this document for the waiver that we are asking all families to sign.



## INSTRUCTION

- If a student is confirmed sick or is self-monitoring due to exposure, a temporary distance learning option will be provided to allow the student to keep pace with learning activities and assignments in their classes. Video conferencing can be utilized so that students can join classes and participate in learning. To discuss this short-term option in the case of sickness, please contact the Principal. This option is different than our *Independent Studies Program*, where students are taught by their parents at home.
- If at some time during the school year in-person school is prohibited or not prudent, MCS faculty and staff are prepared to facilitate distance learning. Further training has been provided for faculty to ensure quality instruction in digital platforms.
- Families will also be provided opportunities to learn the technology and best practices to facilitate distance learning from home.



## **LOST & FOUND**

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- All school items (including jackets and other items of clothing) must be labeled with the first and last name of the student.
- All lost items will be secured in a main location where the items will be sanitized and held for only one week.
- After one week, items will be donated to a local charity.



## **FACE COVERINGS**

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- In order to both comply with the guidelines published by the Ohio Dept. of Health and to provide our teachers with the professional freedom to determine when the coverings interfere with the learning process, we will ask our teachers and students to wear face coverings in the common areas where intentional distancing may not be possible such as the hallways during times of transition. We will also ask that teachers and students wear coverings when working less than 3-6 feet of each other in small groups or providing individual instruction in the classroom settings.
- When social distancing measures of at least 3-6 feet have been obtained, facial coverings for students in the classroom will be optional and at the discretion of each family.



## **PERSONAL ITEMS**

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- Eliminate shared classroom materials as much as possible.
- Label all personal items such as jackets, sweatshirts, school supplies, water bottles, lunch boxes, etc.



## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MINIMIZING EXPOSURE**

### Daily Drop Off / Dismissal:

- Student drop-off begins at 7:30 AM at designated areas.
- All students, staff, and parents will have their temperature checked as they enter the school building.
- Upon entrance to the building, students will sanitize their hands at a designated station or go directly to the restroom to wash their hands.
- After hands have been sanitized or cleaned, elementary students will report directly to the Multipurpose Room and secondary students will report to the high school gym bleachers.
- Students checking in after 8 AM are to first report to their school secretary.

### Early Dismissal for Appointments:

- Parents will call either the elementary or secondary secretary to request their child to check out instead of coming into the building.
- The child will be released when the parent is visible outside the building by a staff member. (Door 16/Elementary and Door 3/Secondary)
- Younger students will be escorted to their parent's vehicle by MCS staff.

# PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MINIMIZING EXPOSURE

(continued)

## Classroom:

- Students will sanitize or wash hands throughout the day.
- Students will be instructed not to share items with their classmates.

## P.E. & Recess:

- Recess and Physical Education classes will continue.
- Recreational and sports equipment will be regularly cleaned and sanitized.

## Facilities:

- Reminders will be displayed throughout the school (classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, administrative offices) for students and staff:
  - Stay 3-6' apart when possible
  - Proper and frequent handwashing
  - How to stop the spread of germs
- Fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills will be modified to maintain proper physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Assemblies and chapels will be modified to maintain proper physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.



## TRANSPORTATION

- Bus transportation is available to and from Mansfield Christian from the following local districts: Mansfield City, Lexington, Ontario, Madison, Clearfork, Lucas, Shelby and Ashland.
- For those planning to use bus transportation, you will need [to contact your local school district](#) transportation department as soon as possible to get signed up for transportation for the 2020-2021 school year.
- All busing regulations (procedures) will come from the local school district transportation department. Students will be required to follow the protocols put in place by the district in regards to: student masking, physical distancing, required seating, etc.



## WATER

- Water fountains will be converted to bottle-filling stations.
- Water fountain mouth pieces will not be in operation.
- Students must bring their own water bottles filled and labeled with their name.

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*MCS Restart Plan is subject to changes based on state, regional, and/or local factors related to the pandemic.*



# Exposure and Positive Testing Protocol

**A STUDENT'S PARENT/CAREGIVER TESTS POSITIVE.** The student would be considered a direct contact and would be required by the local health department to be quarantined for 10-14 days. If student is asymptomatic after 10 days, they can return to school. If the student develops symptoms before the end of the 10 days, the student will now go into isolation and not be returning to school until medical professionals feel he/she has recovered. Medical professionals will reach out to anyone that meets definition of a close contact of the student to require them to quarantine. The classroom should be cleaned and disinfected.

**A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE.** The student is required to be isolated. Any siblings that live with this student will also be required to be sent home to be quarantined. Medical professionals will be consulted to determine who needs to be quarantined. The student that tested positive may return to school once medical professionals have deemed them recovered. If the others that were quarantined never develop symptoms, they may return after the 10 days have passed. The classroom should be cleaned and disinfected.

**A TEACHER TESTS POSITIVE.** The teacher is required to be isolated and medical professionals will contact anyone that meets definition of a direct contact. Medical professionals will be consulted to determine who needs to be quarantined. The teacher that tested positive may return to school once a medical professional has deemed them recovered. The classroom should be cleaned and disinfected.

**A TEACHER'S SPOUSE TESTS POSITIVE.** The teacher is a direct contact of the spouse and will be required to be quarantined for 10-14 days. If the teacher does not develop symptoms, the teacher can return after the quarantine period. If the teacher does develop symptoms, they are required to remain in isolation until they are deemed recovered. The classroom should be cleaned and disinfected.

## NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

School nurses will issue proper notification to let parents know they should pay extra attention to their child and check their child daily when someone in the class has tested positive for COVID-19. Please be sure to check your child daily to assess if symptoms of COVID-19 develop.

*\*Excerpts modified from the Richland County Schools COVID-19 Reopening Guidance*

## INCREASING READINESS

There is a significant difference between what happened in the Spring of 2020 and what will happen in the Fall of 2020 should the Governor make a similar decision. The spring was very challenging; school closure was mandated with very short notice, leading to a sudden online only model and quick turn-around training for teachers. The fall follows a summer that has provided an opportunity for the school to be increasingly prepared for both face-to-face learning as impacted by the pandemic, and an improved online format should the need arise. Principals and teachers are working throughout the summer to be ready to serve students well in August. Further and more extensive professional development will be afforded to the teachers to ensure quality online instruction. Likewise, families will also be provided training and opportunities to learn the technology and best approaches to facilitate learning from home.

As a private school, MCS is able to adjust swiftly to changes in the educational landscape. Our facilities, resources, low student/teacher ratio, like-minded families, respectful students, quality personnel, and shared values all contribute to creating a culture that can thrive even through a national crisis. MCS will be ready to welcome your family in August and we will be even better this year!

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Indeed we are living in "unprecedented times." That phrase is overused, but not overstated. This is a very fluid time with frequent and rapid changes. We will continue to communicate updates as situations unfold. We are eager to have students back in the classrooms and again fulfill our mission of providing the best possible school experience for every family. Thank you for your commitment to Christian education at MCS. It is indeed a privilege to partner with you in teaching and training the next generation to impact the world for Christ. Please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns as you prepare for the new school year.

# Waiver of Liability & Health Screening Agreement

The novel coronavirus COVID-19 ("COVID-19") has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact.

Mansfield Christian School ("MCS") has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, MCS cannot guarantee or assure you that your child (which term shall include a child for whom you are the guardian) will not become infected with COVID-19 after attending classes, activities and events at, or sponsored, arranged or allowed by MCS (collectively "School Events"). Attending School Events could increase your child's risk of contracting COVID-19.

I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk on behalf of my child that my child may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending school events and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death.

On my behalf and on behalf of my child, I hereby waive, release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless MCS, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all claims, liabilities, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees and costs, in any way arising from or out of or relating to, directly or indirectly, COVID-19 infection of my child or me or anyone else that I or my child may come into contact with, and any effects thereof, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any school events.

<b>Printed Student Name:</b> _____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____
_____	Grade: _____

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Parents/Guardian: A completed waiver must be on file before the first day of school. (August 25<sup>th</sup>)*

You may submit this waiver by choosing **one** of the options below:

- Print, complete, sign and return the waiver to the Elementary or Secondary office.
- Complete the form at MCS. Paper copies are available in each office.
- Fill out the waiver online via your [FACTS account](#) by logging in and choosing "Web Forms." Click on the "Waiver of Liability & Health Screening Agreement" and complete one for each student attending MCS.