

CHESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

August 7, 2020

Dear CHESS Christian School Families,

Quality Christian education and safety have always been co-existing goals at CHESS. Abiding by regular rapid escape drills, health codes, and building security now extends to increased sanitization, social distancing, and masks.

It is important for me to share with our Community that we are committed to both the health & safety of our children, and equally committed to continuing the flexible, engaging classroom experiences that we have all grown to love. We are convinced that the best learning and discipleship occur when we are physically together in community.

As mentioned in our initial reopening statement, the CHESS leadership pledged to continually refine our return-to-school approach based on state guidance. With this and upon significant prayer and consideration, the CHESS leadership made the decision to create an environment with as much normalcy as possible for our students, while also seeking to keep our community safe. We will continually reevaluate our plan based on the state's guidance and will reverse any state orders which are lifted in the changing landscape of COVID-19.

The revised reopening plan for CHESS Christian School contains the following points of clarification:

Increased Sanitization

- HEPA filters will be utilized in air scrubbers that will be strategically placed in large communal areas, like the multipurpose room
- A ULV fogger will enable sanitization of large spaces and entire classrooms on a regular basis without using harsh chemicals
- Daily sanitization protocols, as previously described, will remain in place

Social Distancing & Masks

- A large building with open spaces enable social distancing in hallways, the multipurpose room, and in classrooms with desks generally 6 feet apart.
- Upper School lockers will be assigned on two floors to allow for proper social distancing during class transitions.
- In addition to the previous order for teachers, staff, and administration to wear face coverings, Governor DeWine issued a health department order on August 4, 2020, requiring K-12 students to wear masks at school.

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- After seeking clarification on the health order from the office of Governor DeWine, required masks are face coverings which cover the mouth and nose. The CHES leadership will continue to monitor the expectation on the mask requirement during recess, lunch, and PE.

Masks continue to provide polarized opinions on the safe return to school. **Please be assured, teachers and administrators will assess the ongoing needs of students as we commit to support the challenges for student-learning in a temporarily modified environment.**

At CHES, reimagining education is our passion, and we are committed to responding to the obstacles presented by the pandemic and the resultant health order with grace, humility, and creativity. Following are a few strategies the administrative team and teachers have already developed to promote a rich educational environment for students of all ages while balancing the impact of masks on learning:

- Allowing students to have access to water bottles throughout the day
- Creating outdoor spaces to support engaging instructional opportunities

Distance Learning

As a hybrid school, we are grateful to have been ahead of the curve for distance learning, well in advance of COVID-19. We are thankful to announce that, if needed, students can expect an improved distance learning experience. We believe in meeting families where they are and providing flexible options for all family situations.

Christian Community

Challenges and obstacles are not new to CHES. Over the past six years we opened a school in six weeks, moved to various locations, and rehabilitated a building in six weeks. **We are at a critical juncture for our school, and I am asking the CHES Christian School community to join together as we endure the most recent challenge of COVID-19.** We know this season will pass, and we need to stand strong together in the mission the Lord assigned to CHES as we develop and equip a community of students who are empowered to impact the world for Christ. Our students, teachers, parents, and administrators need a community with whom to navigate these uncertain times.

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Engaging in an invisible battle, such as protecting against a virus, is not new territory for a Christ-follower. Rather, we are daily engaged in battle, as outlined in Ephesians 6:10-12: *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

In closing, the CHESS leadership appreciates your understanding and flexibility, as we strive to bring our community back together in a safe and healthy manner. We are yearning to continue the Lord’s work through discipleship in our hallways, prayers in our common areas, and collaborative learning in our classrooms.

Please feel free to reach out to Tara Lee at tlee@chesschristian.com, or email the Board of Directors at board@chesschristian.com with questions or concerns.

Trusting the Lord,

Tara Lee

Tara Lee
Executive Director
CHESS Christian School