

Reopening Calvary Christian School (August 1, 2020)

Due to COVID, there is little doubt that the last several months have been a difficult season in the life of our school, the families we stand with in the education of the children and young people, and the faculty. This season has taken a toll on all of us, but it has especially impacted the young who may lack the ability to navigate such adversity. While teaching our students about the Lord and educating them for God's call upon their life is the mission of our school, it must be done with wisdom and discernment. With this in mind, we will move forward as a school community with both CCS Traditional and CCS Virtual School for the CCS 2020-21 School Year.

Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus is continually to evolving, and our protocols and plans will be updated as appropriate and as more information becomes available.

Guiding Principles for Decision Making

- All decisions will be made with prayer and consideration.
- God gave parents the responsibility for their children. Therefore, the method of education of their children rest with parents.
- The health and safety of the students, parents, and faculty must have priority in decision making during this COVID pandemic.
- The mission and vision of Calvary Christian School in standing with Christian parents will move forward.

The Educational Methods for Calvary Christian School 2020-21 School Year

Calvary Christian School will operate both a five day a week in-school program as well as a virtual school.

By providing both educational settings, parents will be able to make the choice that they believe is in the best interest of their student.

The two options also allow the school maximum flexibility in educational continuity in the face of the changing demands that COVID is placing upon educational institutions. This flexibility will allow all students in the traditional setting to be seamlessly moved to virtual learning in the event a COVID case requires a period of closing the school, a worsening COVID environment in Stafford and Prince William Counties, or other situation that may require the traditional school to close for a period of time. One key element in this dual approach is the "same curriculum, same teacher, same lesson." This means that students will have consistency in their classwork and instructor regardless of teaching mode.

The Traditional In-Class Campus- It is All of Our Job to Maintain a Healthy Campus

While the school has initiated detailed protocols to help maintain the health of all students, parents, and faculty on the school campus, it is vital that this become a cooperative effort. Some of the greatest learning lessons that the students of our school will learn during this time are related to how we care for others. Are we selfish and self-centered, or do we seek to care for the most vulnerable In our culture?

Children are usually the most vulnerable, but COVID has flipped the script, making the aged and those with on-going health issues the vulnerable. With this in mind, we ask asking:

- Parents with children who are sick or may be sick to keep them home.
- Faculty who are ill must stay home.
- If any family member is around someone who is COVID positive or a family member tests positive, please let the school know at once and then quarantine for ten-fourteen days. Academic arrangements will be made through the virtual school for your students.

To help initiate a constant awareness of the “Community of Care” expectation at CCS, we will ask parents and faculty to digitally sign the COVID Form each day. This will serve as a check list of responsibilities and remind each parent and faculty member of what is needed to keep the school community safe. Routine can become both our friend and our enemy as we work together in this area.

Protocols During the School Day

- Parents will complete the COVID Form on their SchoolCues App digitally prior to dropping their student off at school. Students will not be allowed in the building until this form has been received.
- Each student, parent, and faculty member will have their temperature taken at the door prior to entering the building. Faculty and student temperatures will be taken again before lunch, and students who are going to daycare after school will have their temperature taken before entering the daycare area. Students and faculty who have above a 100.4 degree temperature will be not allowed in the facility or will be sent home.
- We are asking that each student bath or shower on a daily basis and arrive at school in a clean uniform each day.
- Class size will be limited to ten students.
- Desk will be about six feet apart in the classroom.
- Students and faculty will wear their masks while they are in the building. Masks will be removed and placed in special individual, labelled boxes while on the playground.
- Faculty will wear a face shield in addition to the mask.
- Students should bring their own filled water bottle. A new touchless water fountain is being installed for use in refilling bottles. The fountain is self will be off, only allowing refills of bottles.
- Hands will be washed on the way outside to the playground and when coming back into the building from the playground.
- Lunches will be served in the classrooms. No masks are required while eating.
- Regular handwashing will be expected. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in each classroom.
- Four and five-year- old students will be dismissed from outside during car line. All other students will be sent to their car from their classroom once it arrives. This may slow the car line down a bit, but this process is needed to distance the students.
- For free time activity at lower grade levels, teachers are putting together individual play boxes that will be assigned and labeled for each student. There will be no community toys. Students who are in aftercare may bring one toy for only their personal use. These will be to be sent home each night to be cleaned or wiped down.

- The nap mats and blankets that are used by our four-year-old kindergarten students will be sent home every weekend to be cleaned. The mats will be wiped down at least twice per week by our cleaning staff.
- At the upper levels of the school, self-defense classes will not be provided for this school year. PE classes will be held outdoors with distance type activities for students.
- There will be no field trips until COVIDS subsides.
- All technology that is shared must be wiped down between each user.

Environmental and Cleaning Protocols

- The school restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized three times per day.
- Touchless soap dispensers and low-touch facet handles have been installed in the restrooms to allow plenty of water for washing.
- Paper towel and hand soap will be checked upon each bathroom cleaning.
- The door handles and desktops will be sanitized whenever students are on the playground.
- UV sanitizing units have been purchased for each classroom. These will be used when students are on the playground to supplement sanitizing wipe downs.
- Classroom air cleaners have been purchased for each classroom. These HEPA filters will filter the air in our average size room about every fifteen minutes.
- Carpets will be vacuumed after school on Friday nights after students have left the building.
- Carpets will be professionally cleaned at least three times per school year.
- Air ducts will be cleaned at least three times during the school year.
- HEPA filters will be added to the HVAC air handlers serving the school area.

Guidelines for Closing the Traditional Campus

Because of the changing nature of COVID, it is essential that the school constantly monitor the virus's impact on Southern Prince William and Stafford Counties. The following metrics will be used to evaluate the status of operations:

- **Two-week cumulative incidence rate:** The number of new cases in the prior two weeks per 100,000 people. This metric provides the recent incidence of COVID-19 infections in that county. Categorization (# cases/100,000 people):
 - Low: 0 – 50
 - Medium: 51 – 200
 - High: ≥ 201
- **Trend in incidence rate:** Whether the two-week incidence rate is increasing, decreasing, or stable compared to the previous two weeks. For purposes of this assessment, consider the trends to be equivalent to:
 - Decreasing = Low
 - Stable = Medium
 - Increasing = High

- **Two-week percent positive rate:** the percentage of individuals who tested positive out of the number of individuals tested with a molecular (swab, or PCR) test in the last two weeks for each county. The metric takes into consideration the number of tests performed in the county in the prior two weeks. Categorization:
 - Low: $\leq 5.0\%$
 - Medium: $5.1 - 9.9\%$
 - High: $\geq 10.0\%$

These metrics have been accepted by many school districts and private schools to guide their decisions regarding state of impacted operations. The school may change the means or weights we assign to these metrics as more accurate predictors are developed. Obviously, we want all three indicators to be in decline. However, if we find them moving into unfavorable zones, we will drill down into statistics and make the needed adjustments. These adjustments could include modified schedules or a period of folding the traditional school into the virtual school.

There is also the possibility of a COVID positive student or a student or family member that has come into close contact with another person who has been determined to be COVID positive. In such cases, the Virginia Department of Health will send at least that student's class home for a period of time. The entire school could also be sent home. Again, we would revert to virtual school. It is vital that parents report COVID exposure with their family residing in the same home.

In the event, the CCS Traditional School will be closed for greater than thirty days, all tuition will revert to the published virtual school rates. Lunch and daycare fees will be eliminated until we can once again return to school.

This virus will end. When it does, virtual students will be offered seats in the traditional school (classes will go to 14-15 students again) in the order of their enrollment for the school year in the virtual school.

A Final Note from the Administration

It is important that we remember that study after study, as well as empirical statistical data, show the extremely low impact of COVID on children and young people. Transmission from one child to another has low probability. Most children who have COVID are asymptomatic. Children conveying the virus to adults also has a low probability of occurrence. It appears that the science is speaking volumes. Still, every parent needs to weigh the situation against the educational needs of their child.

If the school and the school community create a "Community of Care" by being diligent in doing our part, we will have done all that we can to move forward in the face of this adversity. Please pray for our school, its faculty and students, and the other families that call CCS "home".

