

**Safety is
our
#1 Priority!!**



Harvest Christian Academy

**Our new hours of operation are 7:45AM -4:00PM (K5-12th)
Our hours have not changed for daycare and preschool.**

**January 2021 School Returning Plan
(V.2.0.)**

Dear HARVEST FAMILIES,

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world forever, Harvest has thrived in the midst of it all. We have truly done our part in spite of the posed challenges with in-person learning. We have worked diligently with the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and with their guidance, we have remained open for the first half of the school year.

With that said, I am eager to have welcome everyone back from the holiday break, with safety and protection protocols being our number one priority. This guidance is just the beginning of our work. Harvest will continue to coordinate with the Department of Public Health and CDC to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff as they return to our school building. We will continue to communicate often as we gain new information amidst the fast and changing times.

What follows is the January 2021 School Returning Plan (version 2.0) which is designed to provide general information about our winter and spring plans. Reopening after a break is a process, and this plan includes some changes and a level of detail we feel appropriate and prudent at this time.

As more information develops, and as COVID-19 still exists in our world, we will exercise proper vigilance in preventing its spread by taking seriously the health risks associated with COVID-19. However, we do recognize that no plan is able to eliminate the risk of all illnesses.

While we must look at the fast-changing guidelines and research in order to apply them to our specific situation here at Harvest, we also deeply trust BY FAITH in the grace and mercy of God for wisdom in planning and for the health of our school community. Thank you for your partnership and participation with us at Harvest as we continue on in with the plan God has for Harvest, from infancy to the twelfth grade, empowering, equipping, and teaching tomorrow's leaders today!

Sincerely,



Headmaster

Guiding Principles for Maintaining Safety at Harvest

The following list of core commitments is guiding our planning process:



- Concern for the well-being (physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual) of our students, student families and faculty/staff.
- Trusting in the grace and mercy of God for wisdom in planning and for the health of our community.
- Loving our neighbor well: “Therefore, let us not pass judgement of one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.”

- Reliance on guidance available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and the State of Delaware Department of Education and Department of Health.
- Collaboration with local schools, in particular local private and Christian schools, to pursue basic compatibility and consistency in plans.
- Sensitivity to the needs of normalcy in operations and teaching/learning as much as possible.
- Preparedness to either relax or tighten COVID-19 protocols as necessary.

Continuity of Teaching and Learning

Regardless of the status of COVID-19 throughout the school year, continuity in teaching/learning is of paramount importance. We start from the premise that Christian education is best implemented via in-person teaching and learning.

On-Campus Learning

We are reopening on January 4, 2021, as scheduled on the 2020-21 school calendar. We'll continuously monitor the health of our school community and keep abreast of trends in the broader region. Harvest faculty members will plan and administer their classrooms in such a way that a pivot to short-term distance-learning will be as seamless as possible. Use of facial coverings and social distancing are top priorities and a great way for us to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and it is important that we keep cohorts (groups) separated as much as possible.

Distance-Based Learning

In the event that the State of Delaware mandates that *all* schools, including independent and private schools, in the state close for an extended period of time (one week or longer) due to COVID-19, we will pivot to distance-based learning. If local school districts cannot re-open or must close due to operational obstacles unique to the district involved, Harvest will make an independent decision about keeping our school open, based on our own ability to adequately care for students' and faculty/staff members' wellness. While distance learning was scaled back in Q4 of 2019-20, distance learning will be more standardized than in the spring of 2020. Access to required technology will need to be confirmed. Attendance will be mandatory, and our normal grading scale, as outlined in our handbook, will be used.

Social Distancing

Social distancing will be paramount for students in K-12.

- Interpersonal physical contact of any kind will be minimized.
- Classrooms will be set up to maximize distance between students seated at their desks.
- Bathroom privileges will be more liberal, allowing students to use the bathroom outside of classroom changes.
- Lunch will take place in individual classrooms.

Use of Cohorts

Cohorts are groups of students and staff within the school building who interact mostly only with each other.

The goal of using cohorts is to limit the number of people exposed to COVID-19.

If a student or teacher does test positive for the virus, only those in that cohort will be required to quarantine.

Facial Coverings

- All students and staff members are required to wear a face mask in order to enter our facility and wear it all day as well. It must be clean or you will be not be permitted entrance and will be asked to return with a clean mask.
- **We are also asking each student to bring in two extra masks, in a Ziploc bag, to keep in their desk.**
- We do understand the difficulties with wearing a mask for the entire day. We will take breaks from mask-wearing when social distancing (at least six feet) is in place.

Cleaning Facility

We have already implemented enhanced sanitizing and cleaning protocols in our facility to include:

- Teachers will be supplied with disinfectants for classroom use. They will clean their desks and frequently touched surfaces regularly throughout the day.

- Classrooms, including desks, tables and all hard surfaces will be fogged with sanitizer each night.
- Everyone will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting a room.
- All bathrooms, public spaces, and high-touch areas will be regularly cleaned throughout the day.
- Hand-sanitizing stations will be installed in key locations all around our space.

Athletics

Basketball began at the end of 2020, and we are excited to cheer our boys on!

Harvest will follow the guidelines and safety protocols set forth by DVCS and their league for basketball.

Before/Aftercare

As a means of keeping groups separated, we have decided to cancel our before and after care programs. Our new hours of operation will be 7:45AM -4:00PM.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up

Drop-off and pick-up procedures, will remain the same, to maintain distance and for efficient temperature checks and assuring face masks are being worn.

Meal Time

Going forward, students will be eating lunch in their classrooms. Breakfast and lunch will continue to be offered, but the cafeteria will not be utilized. Students will pick up breakfast and lunch and eat in their classrooms.

Guests on Campus

Going forward, HCA cannot allow parents to volunteer in any capacity at the school at this time. While we are thankful for your participation in reading groups, math tutoring, cafeteria management and special events coordination, we have to be as safe as possible.

Bus Riders

Masks must be worn at all times. No exceptions. If students/parents are not compliant, your child will not be permitted to ride the bus.

Communications

HCA is committed to providing clear and continuous communication of essential information and updates for our families. Parents can expect to receive communication through email. We will communicate clearly and often with families. If you have not been receiving our emails, please provide an updated email address to the administration team.

We are prepared for this second half of the school year, and ready to once again welcome students and families back to school. As always, the **guidelines laid out in this plan are subject to change. Any updates will be sent out via email.**



Personal Health and Hygiene

All members of the Harvest community will still be expected to meet high standards for personal health and hygiene practices.

Students, employees, and guests will be required to wash or sanitize upon entry to the building, before and after eating, and regularly during the day.

- *Students and employees should avoid touching all high-touch surfaces as much as possible. High-touch surfaces include railings, walls, doorknobs, etc.*
- *Windows and doors will be propped open to enhance ventilation as feasible and appropriate, depending on the weather and other factors.*
- *All classroom parties and celebrations will be self-contained, without guests, and will involve no group food items.*
- ***Students should have a filled water bottle that they bring to school daily.***

Health Screen: Employees and Students

To protect the health and well-being of all Harvest constituents, new health-screening practices will be employed, in addition to our customary practices outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook.

- All employees and parents will **be required** to implement a health-screening routine every morning prior to coming to school. This screening will include taking one's temperature and assessing oneself for COVID-like symptoms such as coughing, congestion, body aches, or other respiratory ailments.
- Temperatures will also be taken at school at the entry of the building. If a student's or employee's temperature is 100.4 or above, or if COVID-19 like symptoms are present, he or she will not be allowed to come to school. Students and staff will be sent home immediately and will require a doctor's note for re-entry into the building.
- **If anyone in your household has been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or has tested positive themselves or are exhibiting any symptoms, your child/children are not permitted to attend school and must quarantine for 14 days. This is mandatory to help stop the spread of the virus.**