

MIDDLETOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Reopening Guidelines for 2020-2021

Safety Protocols for MCS for 2020-21

Cohorts/Stable Groups

- Enrollment has been capped (10-14 students) in all classes depending on social distance recommendations for schools of 3ft to maintain small class size and thus limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus. If a student displays symptoms of illness, they will wait in office and be sent home from school.
- Students will remain on campus within their class/ stable group (cohort) in the classroom, during breaks, lunch and on the playground.
- Staggered lunch times and locations will be issued to individual cohorts.
- Student interactions will be limited due to segregated classes/cohorts. Middle and high school students make up a small cohort. There may be depending on academic courses.
- Schedules for arrival and pick-up will be coordinated to limit mixing of classroom cohorts.

Health Screenings

- If staff and students exhibit the following symptoms, they are expected to stay home;
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Students and staff will be screened daily for fever using a no-touch thermometer.
- Students will be admitted only after temperature check verification. Any student with a temperature at or above 100.4 will not be allowed to remain on campus. (See pick-up procedures)

Visitors/Volunteers

- Parents and visitors will have limited access to the school campus.
- All pre-approved visitors entering the MCS campus must check in at the office and have their temperature checked before entering a classroom or working on campus and adhere to all other safety guidelines.

- Social distancing and wearing a face covering will be expected for visitors in all areas of the school.

Drop Off Procedure

- Drop-off is 8am - 8:15am.
- Pull curbside (drive thru style) for temp verification & drop off. Look for temp check personnel. Do not leave until child has been given the 'okay'.
- When possible, stay in your vehicle when dropping off your child.
- If walking your child to class or entering the office, please wear a mask and park in the outer parking areas.
- Socializing in the drop-off zone is discouraged, please drop and drive through.

Pick Up Procedure

- Pick up is at 2:45. Please be prompt!
- Pull curbside and teachers will be waiting with their students lined up near the curb.
- When possible, stay in your vehicle when picking up your child.
- If you need to go into the office or speak with a teacher, please wear a mask and park in the outer parking areas.
- Socializing in the pick-up zone is discouraged, please pick up, and drive through and maintain social distancing.

Student Check Out (leaving campus for appointments)

- Call ahead
- Pull into drive through and call or text the office when you arrive.
- Student will be escorted to the parent.
- A staff member will meet you at your car to sign your child out.

School Events

- Large "all school" events have been put on hold. Bi-monthly chapels will be held outside when possible or in 6ft segregated stable groups.
- Recess and lunch will be staggered while maintaining small groups.
- Field trips limited. Class trips to outdoor venues (Boggs, local farm, Clearlake State Park) permissible when possible.

Social Distancing

- A physical distancing of six feet is to be maintained between adults and students.
- Desks will be placed a minimum of three to four feet apart. Effort will be made to leave as much space as possible between students.

Face Coverings

- Students in grades 3 and up will be required to wear face coverings in the classroom and when social distancing is not possible on the campus.

- Face coverings are not required during recess play
- All staff will wear face coverings/and or shields in the classroom.
- We understand that there may be exemptions related to existing health conditions. Health & Medical exemptions will be honored with a physician note.

Educate & Train in Good Hygiene Behavioral Practices

- Before and during the first week of school, training will be provided to all staff and students reinforcing the importance of safety practices and protocols.
- Routines and schedules will be developed to enable students and staff to regularly wash their hands.

Students will be trained to do the following:

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing/sneezing.
- Throw away used tissues in a lined (no-touch) trash can.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- How to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer properly.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when sick.
- Routines and schedules will be developed.

Daily Classroom Cleaning/Sanitizing

Detailed procedures related to the cleaning and sanitizing of our school facilities goes beyond the scope of this document. However, the list below reflects the most important elements.

- Daily disinfection of surfaces and objects touched by multiple people. (desks, tables, chairs, shared supplies, door handles, faucets/sinks)
- Recreation and sports equipment will be sanitized as needed.
- Hand sanitizer (60-90% USP grade alcohol) will be available at the entry point to each classroom.
- Liquid soap and hand sanitizer will be replenished as needed.
- “No touch” waste receptacles will be available for disposal of trash.
- Disinfectant wipes will be available so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down frequently.
- We have purchased UV lights for classroom sanitization. This is microbial technology used successfully to disinfect all surfaces.
- As much as possible students will use their own personal items, especially those that can’t be sanitized. Student items will be stored in separate boxes or totes. Personal items are to be taken home periodically to be cleaned.
- Avoid sharing items such as electronic equipment, toys and games as much as practicable.
- We will regularly evaluate our campus for compliance with the plan and correct deficiencies.

Facilities

- All students and staff will have access to hand washing stations.
- Drinking fountains will be closed and students will bring their own drinking water.
- Adequate ventilation has been shown to be critical to minimizing the spread of viruses. We have evaluated our ventilation systems and are installing new equipment in the high school classrooms.
- A rotating schedule will be used with the playground structures. Only one cohort a day will have access to the playground structures.

Personal School Items and Clothing

- It is very important this year that all personal school items and clothing be clearly labeled with the child's first and last name. (Jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencil boxes, etc.)
- Students need to bring a refillable water bottle daily.

Communication

- MCS will continue communication with state and county health authorities and adjust operations accordingly.
- Regular updates will be given to students and families about COVID-19 and any new corresponding change in safety procedures.

Parent Support

This new way of “doing school” will require much extra work on our part and maximum cooperation and partnership with our parents. We realize there are a range of opinions as to what is “safe”, however, if we want to open MCS, there are protocols we must follow. There will be a learning curve for us all. No one knows the interactions of their children better than their parents. Parents will be making the ultimate decision and accept the responsibility that enrolling their child at MCS will require. If you have a student who has pre-existing health issues, it is important to work with your healthcare provider in making an informed decision. Please prayerfully consider whether or not the steps we are taking are in the best interest of your family. While medical experts agree that the risk to the individual child is low and conscientious precautions are being taken, there is a risk that a child could become infected while attending MCS and possibly infect others. Parents will be asked to sign a liability waiver as part of the enrollment process.

The most important responsibility of parents is to monitor the health of their own child. Parents will be required to immediately report to MCS any symptoms or fever their child or members of the household display. Parents will also need to report any contact the family has had with others testing positive for the virus. Parents will fully support our policies regarding children staying home when they are sick.

We are following the attached protocols from the Lake County Office of Education. Please read it over for further instruction. We continue to trust in the sovereignty and mercy of God to sustain us through the 2020-2021 school year.