

Mrs. Holly Leach, Superintendent

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**2019 National Blue Ribbon School Award Winner
Top 1% of All Schools in America**



July 10, 2020

Dear Families,

Our school leaders and task force are preparing for a vibrant school year within the framework of DOH healthy protocols. We believe we are positioned for a very successful year ahead. We are filtering decisions through three goals: maintaining a healthy school, meeting our school mission, and maximizing learning.

On Campus Learning

Students will have a five-day, Monday-Friday week. School hours begin at 8:30am and dismiss at 3:10pm (K-5th) and 3:25pm (6th-8th). Full grading days and in-service days have been removed from the calendar. Every Friday, students will be dismissed at noon. This allows teacher to prep and plan in the afternoon. NCA calendar exceeds the State standards for school hours. See attached calendar.

Goals

- Keep COVID-19 at bay through following DOH protocols.
- Classrooms open Monday-Friday with the same hours except for Friday's noon dismissal.
- Organize classrooms into smaller family groups. Grades are self-contained as much as possible.
- Engaging, close-knit classrooms that work as a team or family.
- Maximize learning through classroom technology tools and engaging lessons.
- Smoothly toggle between in-school instruction and distance learning, if necessary.

Plan

Please keep in mind, guidelines are subject to change depending on current CDC, American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) and health department guidelines (DOH).

- **Monitoring**: Temperature checks at entrance points, RN on site to screen health throughout the day, close communication with DOH as needed, guiding parents when to seek medical assessment and when to stay home. Healthy children will participate on campus. Those who are ill will remain home until healthy. Students who are at home will continue learning by being supported by their homeroom/classroom teacher(s).
- **Maintaining physical distancing (whenever possible)**: AAP guidelines will be followed in the classrooms and hallways. Recognize children are very social and physical distancing can be challenging. We will encourage and guide them toward this.
- **Promoting daily hygiene routines**: Wash or sanitize hands when entering school and throughout the day. Utilize the face masks and shields as directed by DOH. We understand that prolonged use could be difficult, and we hope to provide flexibility based on meeting physical distancing criteria.
- **Elementary Classrooms**: Each classroom has been measured and will accommodate 20 students or less. Each "classroom family" will enjoy learning, socializing, eating and playing together during

generous recess time. Their schedule will be thoughtfully and carefully crafted to keep them in their family group during arrival, dismissal, lunch and recess. Specialists mostly will travel to the classroom to teach their specialty areas.

- Middle School Classes will see adjustments yet they will experience four core-content teachers teaching their specialty. Also, outside, fresh air time will be built into the schedule.
- Specialists: More specialist classes will travel to the homeroom classrooms
- Maintaining a healthy campus environment: We will implement physical distancing, daily health monitoring, registered nurse on campus, hand-sanitizing stations, face masks/shields, high-touch surfaces sanitized frequently, classrooms cleaned and disinfected nightly, restrooms sanitized throughout the day, electrostatic sprayers used, HVAC systems maximized, extra outside time in the schedule.
- Frequent building cleaning and sanitizing: Several new cleaning devices have been purchased. They are approved by the CDC and are safe for schools or childcare centers. These new machines join our two Clorox 360 'germinator exterminator' machines used last year. Classroom and high traffic area cleaning will be ongoing throughout the day and in the evening by our custodial staff.
- Evaluating restrictions: As an ongoing process we evaluate various levels of restrictions across the school over the course of the year in order to control and monitor shifting health conditions and recommendations.
- Support well-being: Equally important, the social, emotional and spiritual health of our students, staff, and community is one of the highest priorities during this unprecedented, evolving situation. Increasing the security of our children and giving them a sense of stability and belonging are paramount. Cultivating a sense of school family rooted in God's love is our goal.

Supply Lists: Supply lists are attached and can also be found on the school website under parent resources.

Uniforms: Uniform links can be found on the website in the parent resource section. Also, there is a Facebook page where parents sell gently worn uniforms.

Virtual Academy: A Virtual Academy is under-construction and this new program is to assist families who want to exclusively learn at home. It is a homeschool school experience that is connected to our learning and teachers. More information will be ready to email by the end of next week.

Communication

Look for regular emails from me throughout the summer. I want to keep you informed each step of the way so we can prepare for a successful school year. Remember that this is a season in time. We have our hopes and hearts set on returning to our traditional routines once this season is behind us.

We are living in a dramatic time of change. Even in this season, God's faithfulness and hope for our children are evident! We envision God raising up the next generation who are unshakeable in mind, body, soul and spirit. We are thankful that you are partnering with us during this unique time in our history to build a solid foundation for future success for your children.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Romans 15:13

Sincerely,
Holly Leach