

Oakland Christian School
Amendment to Return to Learn Plan 2020-2021

Sept 30, 2020

Dear Elementary families,

As we head into October, we are thankful for our first 6 weeks of in person classes. As a school, we have been diligent in following the protocols and procedures outlined in the Michigan Safe Start Road Map, and we have worked closely with the Oakland County Health Department for guidance when we receive notice of a positive case.

As you may have heard, last week Michigan Executive Order 2020-185 was issued as an amendment to Michigan Executive Order 2020-142, and now requires masks to be worn by students in K-5 classrooms beginning October 5, 2020. Oakland Christian School will comply with this Executive order, and will require masks in our elementary classrooms beginning next Monday.

As we implement this new requirement, we know there will be questions. We have anticipated the following questions and have provided answers below -

Will classrooms continue to be cohorts now that masks are required in the elementary school?

~ Yes. Students will continue to remain with their own classrooms throughout the school day to mitigate exposure risks.

I have noticed that elementary classes have had to quarantine all the students when there is a positive case of COVID in the classroom. Now that elementary students will be wearing masks, will entire classrooms still need to be quarantined when there is a positive case?

~ No. Entire classrooms will not automatically have to be quarantined if there is a positive case within the classroom. The Health Department will guide us on a case-by-case basis, but any necessary quarantine will most likely involve only the students who were sitting in close contact with the positive case during the infectious period. However, parents will still be notified of any positive cases that are reported.

Will this change allow the school to have face to face elementary chapel?

~No. Unfortunately large assemblies are still prohibited during Phase 4 of the Michigan School Safe Start Road Map.

Will kindergarten students be required to wear masks during nap time?

~ No. Kindergarten students will remove their masks for nap time and their cots will be six feet apart from each other.

What is a mask break and when will they be offered to elementary students throughout the school day?

~ Mask breaks are brief times when students can remove their masks while maintaining a distance of six feet or more from others. Teachers will direct mask breaks that can take place in the classroom and/or outside. Masks will be removed while students are eating, drinking or engaged in physical activity. As we move into colder weather we will continue to go outside for brief times throughout the day to get fresh air (in addition to recess breaks).

Thank you for continuing to partner with us and we strive to maintain in person learning for all of our students while operating within the Michigan Safe Start Plan. On Friday the classroom teachers will explain to the students the new plan to wear masks inside the classrooms.

Please discuss this with your child at home as well. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at gnickel@oaklandchristian.com or our school nurse, Mrs. Lewis, at hlewis@oaklandchristian.com.

Gordon Nickel,
Elementary Principal