

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



OAKLAND
CHRISTIAN
— S C H O O L —

RETURN TO LEARN

2020 - 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Whew! I have learned a lot in the past few months. One of my first revelations was that although God promises that we have received gifts from Him, my gift is NOT prophecy! I have gotten nothing right so far, and so I have decided not to make any predictions about what lies ahead.

In these times, as in many others in my life, God has used His words and those of my brothers and sisters in Christ to teach me a number of things. This is my constant prayer - that I will listen to Him to receive the wisdom and discernment He promises and be relieved of my cares, anxiety, fear (1 Peter 5:7). As we all wrestle with this virus "season," I am beginning to understand that my role as a leader prompts me to shelve my personal thoughts, opinions or feelings and consider the broader impact that my actions take on all of those around me.

I have been meditating upon the greatest commandment from Jesus in Matthew 22:37-39. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Loving our neighbors during a global pandemic means we will have to do things differently. Keeping our distance from one another, limiting visitors in the building, and even wearing masks - all of these extraordinary actions show love, care and compassion for our neighbors.

This OCS Return to Learn Plan is intended to address a variety of issues related to the re-opening of Oakland Christian School for the 2020-21 school year. It is modeled and organized based on Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap that is aligned with the Governor's Michigan Safe Start Plan. In Michigan, private schools are subject to state mandates and requirements.

I DO believe that God is using, and will use, this time for us to grow in Him and our testimony of His faithfulness and love. I continue to believe that the BEST is yet to come, and so I encourage all of us to place our eyes on Christ.

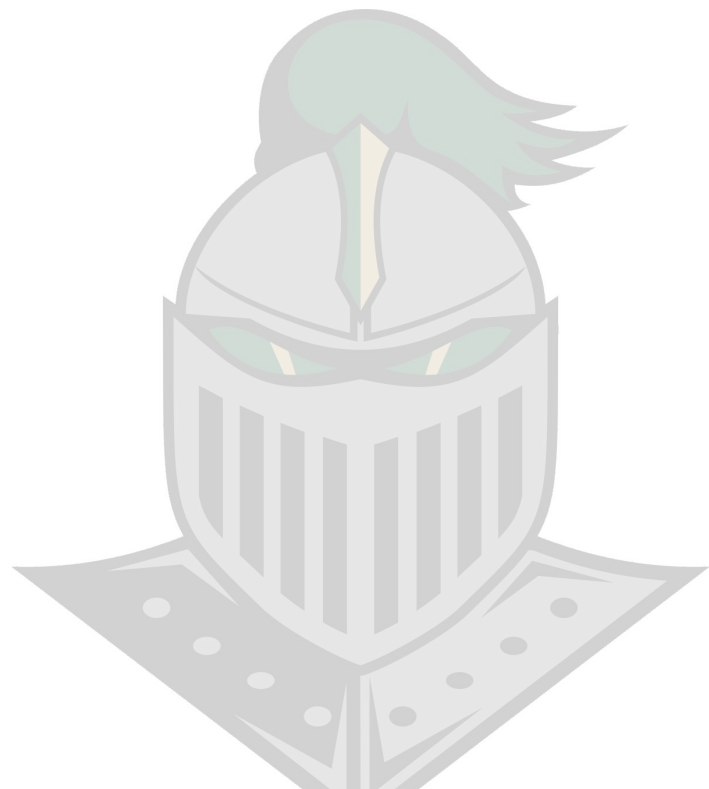
Eyes on Christ - Pat



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The OCS Return to Learn Plan has been designed to assist us to plan, deliver and instruct our students for the 2020-21 school year. It is designed to address continuous learning efforts, whether in-person or remotely. It is also designed to address issues related to the health and safety of our students, their families, and our faculty and staff. As we plan for the re-opening of school, these guiding principles provide the foundation for our plans.

- Uphold and continue to deliver on the Mission of Oakland Christian School
- Be vigilant and focused on adhering to the OCS Core Values
- Provide a safe learning environment for students and staff
- Ensure continuous learning through a variety of potential teaching and learning scenarios
- Ensure that any remote learning schedule implemented addresses issues of access and equity and is supportive of family and students needs and scheduling

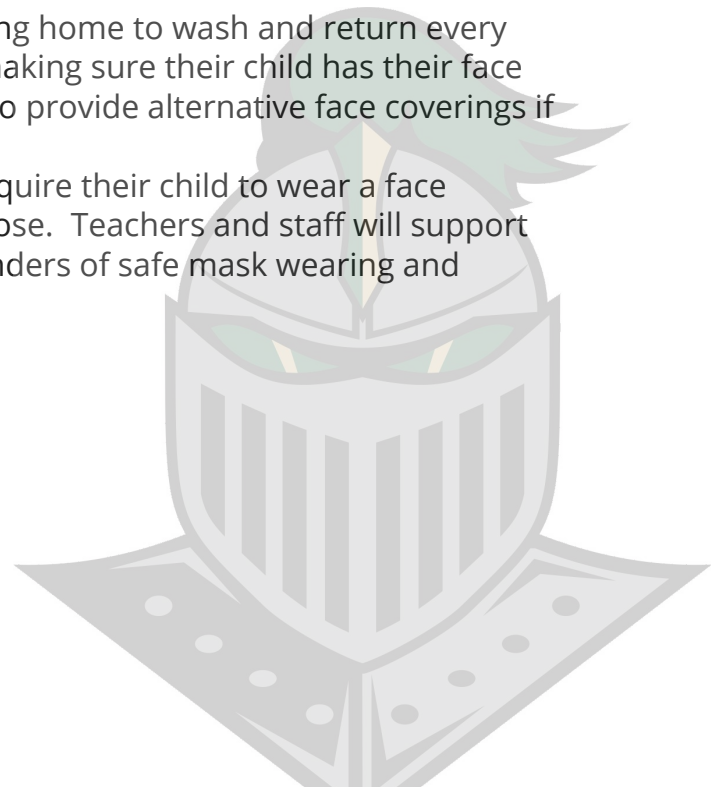


EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM

During these uncertain times, we at Oakland Christian School want you to know that we value the safety and wellbeing of you and your child(ren). For this reason, we ask that you take time to read through the following procedures and policies we will be implementing for the 2020-21 school year. We commit to taking all precautions toward keeping children and staff safe and healthy, including the current time of the COVID-19 outbreak. These policies and procedures are subject to change as our state goes through the phases to safely open our state and schools.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- All Early Education Center staff will wear face coverings for the entirety of their day with children, unless medically unable to, documented by a physician.
- EEC children will be provided with a face covering (neck gaiter) by the school to wear only while walking to the bathroom and gym. Children who are unable to wear a face covering will be exempt. The 2&3 year old preschool children will be provided with the face covering but will not be required to wear it according to the current state mandates.
- Parents and staff will take the face covering home to wash and return every school day. Parents are responsible for making sure their child has their face covering for the day. Parents are invited to provide alternative face coverings if they prefer.
- Parents reserve the right to personally require their child to wear a face covering for the school day if they so choose. Teachers and staff will support children wearing masks with gentle reminders of safe mask wearing and hygiene practices.



HYGIENE

- When students enter the building their personal items will be placed in their cubby and the students will immediately wash their hands in the classroom sink before engaging in classroom activities.
- A sink has been installed in the SI Pre-K and Preschool classrooms. The Pre-K/ Young 5s class will have access to the EEC office sink as well as the bathroom sinks to allow for optimal hand washing practices.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in areas of the school where handwashing with soap and water is not available, including on the playground. -
- Children will be directed to wash their hands when they arrive at school, after touching their nose or mouth, after sensory play, after bathrooming, before and after eating.
- Refer to the attached cleaning procedures document to see our cleaning schedule.

CLEANING AND SANITIZATION

- The EEC has adopted a rigorous cleaning routine and schedule. Please see attached page for the full daily cleaning schedule.
- Difficult to clean materials such as costumes, pillows, puppets, and stuffed animals will be removed from the classroom until it is determined safe by the health department to bring these items back into the classroom.
- Each child will receive their own easily cleaned supply bag with the following supplies readily available to them: crayons, markers, scissors, glue stick, glue bottle. These bags and supplies will be cleaned weekly.
- Each child will be provided a personal sensory bin, which will be changed monthly, or when contaminated. Each child will have their own play dough container, which will be changed monthly or when contaminated.
- Classroom toys will be sanitized after each activity or work time.
- Toys and materials that are placed in a mouth or become contaminated with bodily fluids will be removed and sanitized immediately.

SPACING, MOVEMENT & ACCESS

- EEC classes have been limited in size, depending on the square footage of the classroom to provide ample space for children to play, interact, and grow.
- Extra tables have been added to the classrooms to provide adequate space for each child's safety and comfort.
- Bathroom trips have been scheduled for each class to eliminate contact with other groups. Although trips to the bathroom have been scheduled, we will take children to the bathroom at every need.
- Children will be encouraged to wear their face coverings while traveling to the bathroom and the gym. Children will not wear their face covering while in the gym.
- Parent/Visitors will not be permitted into the EEC area. Parents will use the curbside pick-up and drop-off at designated times or wait at the front desk if picking up during the school day.

SCREENING STUDENTS & STAFF

- At arrival, employees will go through a health screening including a temperature check. If employees demonstrate symptoms or have been in contact with a positive case of Covid, they will stay home.
- Children will go through a health screen when arriving at school. Parents will use our in-car or walk-up curbside drop off between 7:30-8:10am. If using the in-car service, parents will drive up to the drop off area and a staff member will come to the car, take your child's temperature and ask the parent health screening questions in regards to the child's health and exposure. If walking up, a staff member will do the health screening at the entrance ramp.
- If children or staff begin to demonstrate any symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the school day they will immediately be directed to the school nurse for a health screening. Please refer to the OCS "return to learn" document for detailed information on protocols for symptoms developing during the school day.

RESPONDING TO POSITIVE TESTS AMONG STAFF AND STUDENTS

- Please refer to the OCS “return to learn” plan for details about our school's response protocol to positive cases of Covid-19 among staff and students.

GATHERINGS, VISITORS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- All visitors coming into the classroom will go through a health screening before entering the school.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the classroom for pick-up or drop-off. If parents are picking up their child(ren) outside of the pick-up/drop-off time they will enter the school through the front door and a staff member will bring the child(ren) out to the parent.
- All special events where guests are permitted(Christmas Program, Serve Day, etc) and in-house field trips will be canceled until the limit for indoor gatherings is raised and the events can be held safely.
- Parents will be notified when special events are re-established via newsletter and email.
- Parents will be notified if/when a visitor is scheduled to come into the EEC area via newsletter or daily communication on the Remind App.
- All EEC gatherings such as weekly chapel, Thanksgiving feast, and in-house field trips will be canceled until further notice.

OUTDOOR PLAY

- EEC classes will take turns participating in outdoor recess each morning. Children will remain outside for at least 30 minutes per day, weather permitting.
- Class teachers are encouraged and supported to integrate their scheduled classroom activities (large group/ small group) outside, weather permitting, to support a healthy and rich learning environment.
- All outdoor materials and play equipment will be sanitized after each group's use.

LUNCH AND NAP

- Children will have snack time in their own classrooms during the morning program. Parents will provide their child(ren) with a healthy snack in a lunch container/bag labeled with their name.
- EEC children from each class staying for lunch and childcare after 12:00pm will combine in one classroom for lunch and nap. The classroom will be sanitized and children will wash their hands before and after combining the groups for lunch. The lunch tables will be spread out and the capacity at each table will be lowered to allow children to have adequate space while eating.
- Parents must schedule their aftercare needs monthly. Drop-In lunch, nap, and childcare will no longer be available for EEC families.
- At 12:00pm each classroom will be sanitized and children who are scheduled for afternoon childcare will wash their hands and combine in one group for meal time.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

- Any and all information pertaining to COVID-19 will be communicated by the school to the parents through email, newsletters, and when directly involving their child, through a phone call.
- Daily communication between teachers and parents will be done through the Remind App. Email and phone calls will be used when necessary to inform parents of challenging behaviors, illnesses, and injuries.
- Parents will receive email communication for “all school” notifications and information.
- Any and all policy and procedure changes will be communicated to the parents prior to the implementation of the changes.



GENERAL OPERATING GUIDELINES

Phases based on the State of Michigan COVID-19 Risk Levels

PHASE 6

Regular daily schedules
Full chapel program
Athletics & fine arts normal routine and schedule
Normal cafeteria options
Large venue gatherings permitted
General janitorial cleaning

PHASE 5

Regular daily schedules
Modified chapel program
Athletics & fine arts operating with general precautions
General precautions in cafeteria
Large venue gatherings limited
Proactive disinfecting and cleaning
Physical distancing: face coverings recommended

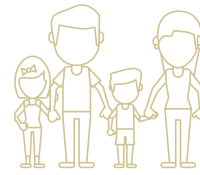
PHASE 4

Modified daily schedules
Modified chapel program
Athletics and fine arts activities limited
Boxed or pre-prepared lunch options only
Large venue gatherings prohibited
Significant and frequent disinfecting and cleaning
Physical distancing: face coverings required

PHASE 1-3

Remote Learning
Virtual chapel
Athletics and fine arts activities canceled
Large venue gatherings prohibited

OUR PRAYER FOR THE OCS COMMUNITY



Yes, this will be a year that begins differently than ever before. We can all agree that this is a time of change like no other and that there are many questions that still lie ahead. None of us know what the entire school year will look like. Therefore, as Christians we turn to God's Word as the Truth and ultimate Authority.

This is our prayer:

- **God is sovereign and in control of all things.**
 - He knows all things past, present and future. There is no limit to His knowledge. God knows everything completely before it even happens. (Romans 11:33)
 - God is in control of all things and rules over all things. (Psalm 103:19)
- **We are not to be anxious or worried.**
 - We are to cast all of our cares and anxieties on Him because for He cares for us. (1 Peter 5:7)
 - We are not to worry. (Matthew 6:25-34)
- **We are to submit to the authorities placed over us.**
 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority, except from God, and those that exist have been installed by God. (Romans 13:1)
 - Submit yourself for the Lord's sake to every human authority. (1 Peter 2:13a)
- **We are to pray for wisdom.**
 - We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives. (Colossians 1:9)
 - If we lack wisdom, we should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given. (James 1:5)
- **We are to care for our people.**
 - Be shepherds of the flock that is under our care, watching over them, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be. (1 Peter 5:2)
- **We are to be joyful, even in the midst of trials.**
 - ...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (Habakkuk 3:18)
 - Count it all joy when you face trials of many kinds, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (James 1:2)

RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

Please reference the Reopening School FAQ page for additional information.

RESOURCES:

- Oakland County Health Department
- Michigan's 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap
- Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs (LARA)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Michigan Association of School Nurses
- Michigan Department of Education

INITIAL CONTACTS:

Mrs. Stephanie Mendenhall, Director of Early Education

Mr. Gordon Nickel, Elementary Principal

Mrs. Heather Lewis, School Nurse

