

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.

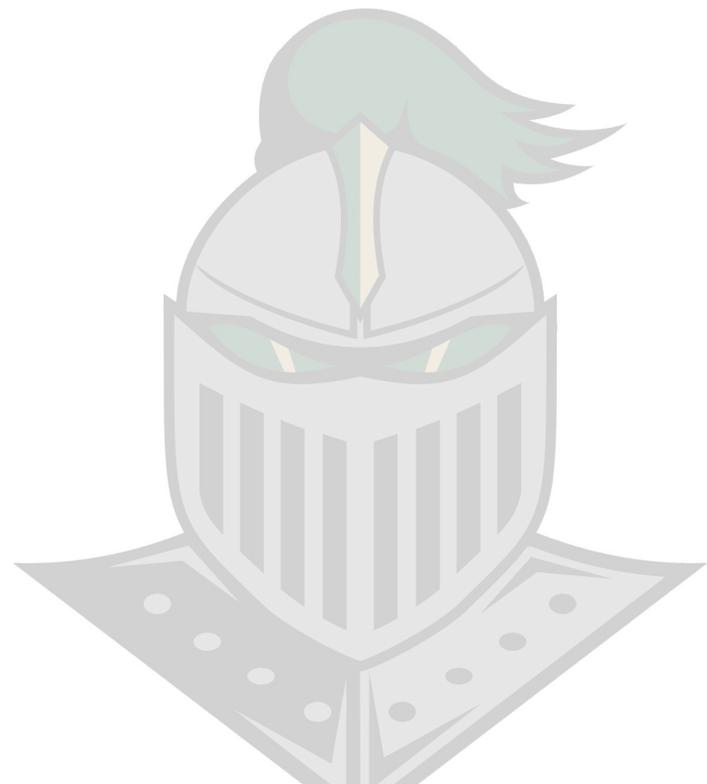
Eyes on Christ - Pat



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



KEY AREAS OF FOCUS



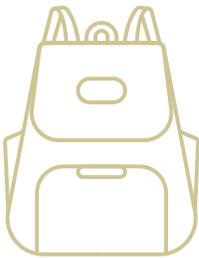
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Following the latest research from a variety of sources, we will work to keep our students, faculty, and staff healthy and safe. We will continue to implement mitigation strategies and provide ongoing oversight for protocols in the months ahead.



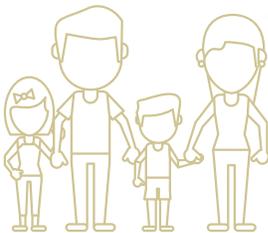
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Our goal is to provide an in-person, face-to-face school experience for our students. We recognize that state mandates may dictate the need to move to a distance learning platform at some time during the school year. We are committed to providing the highest quality of education possible, whether we are in person or distance learning.



STUDENT LIFE AND LOGISTICS

We are committed to providing the most complete OCS experience possible for our students in the 2020-2021 school year and continue to develop plans that allow for the academics, sports, spiritual life, fine arts and extra curricular programs our students and families expect.



OUR PRAYER FOR THE OCS COMMUNITY

We recognize this time of change is like no other we have experienced, and there are many questions that 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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY



OCS is taking the following steps to provide the safest environment possible upon return:

- Staying current on health related guidelines in regards to COVID-19 and its impact on our community
- Educating students and employees on the importance of reducing the risk of exposure
- School nurse on-site with a clinic and isolation room
- Partnering with families to promote daily screenings at home
- Continually spraying and disinfecting
- Hand-washing hygiene
- Limiting visitors in the building

REPORTING PROCEDURES

OCS will remain in contact with the Oakland County Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Michigan Department of Education.

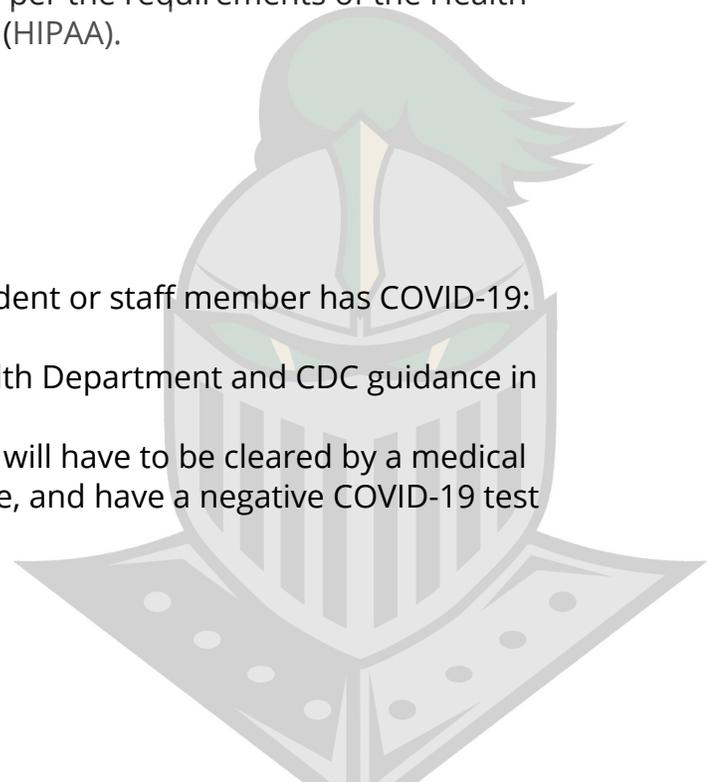
All actions taken in regards to assessment, reporting, and implementation of isolation measures will be guided by the local health department. The school nurse will be heavily involved in this process.

All information gathered will be confidential per the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

CASE MANAGEMENT

In the event that OCS is informed that a student or staff member has COVID-19:

- OCS will follow the Oakland County Health Department and CDC guidance in regard to a positive case.
- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will have to be cleared by a medical doctor, provide a written medical release, and have a negative COVID-19 test result upon return.



CONTACT TRACING

- Contact tracing is the responsibility of the local health department. Schools are responsible for cooperating with the health department when communicable diseases are reported within the school.
- If a positive case of COVID-19 is identified within the school, OCS will follow guidance from the OCHD for notification of people who were in close contact. Close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.
- Parents must understand that there will be a period of time between reporting a positive case to the health department and receiving their guidance on how to proceed.

CLEANING AND SANITIZATION

- Signage posted throughout the building
- Additional custodial staff for continual cleaning of common interior spaces
- Regularly disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces with an EPA-approved disinfectant
- Hand washing guidelines will be posted in the bathrooms and reinforced often
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building and in each classroom

SCREENING

Parents are the first line of defense. All students are required to self-screen and monitor COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school each day. OCS staff will complete a daily screening before entering the building each day. All visitors who have permission to access the school building beyond the reception area will complete a health screening questionnaire and have their temperature taken upon arrival.

FACIAL COVERINGS

- All staff and students will wear an approved facial covering to enter the building. Approved facial coverings include homemade cloth masks that completely cover the mouth, nose, and chin or disposable medical masks. Neck gaiters are included in approved facial coverings. Plastic, clear face shields and bandanas are not approved by the health department unless being used in addition to an approved facial covering.
- Cloth facial coverings must be washed daily. Disposable masks must be replaced daily. Please consider providing your student with an extra facial covering in case it needs to be replaced during the school day.
- Students in grades 6-12 are required to wear masks throughout the day (with the exception of lunch and during designated 'mask breaks').
- Students in grades K-5 may remove their mask while in their classrooms and while outside with their own class.
- Face mask "breaks" will be encouraged throughout the day to promote hydration and well-being.
- Anyone who is not medically able to tolerate a facial covering must provide a written exemption from his/her primary care physician. The exemption will be kept in the school clinic and an identification bracelet will be given to the student to wear at school so that staff members know he/she has been cleared to not wear a mask. If a medical exemption is not provided, the student, staff member, or visitor will not be allowed in the building.

VISITORS

Family members and other guests will not be allowed in the building except on a case by case basis determined by a member of the administrative team.

Adults guests who enter the building must wear a mask. Guests accessing the building beyond the reception area will also be screened for symptoms prior to entering. The receptionist will keep a record including names and entry/exit times and will provide a disposable visitor badge to the guest.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM



We are excited to be back on campus when our school year begins in August, and believe our small class sizes and the modifications we are making will allow for the in-person learning that is critical for our students. However, we are planning for a variety of scenarios, as the instructional team spent the past few months significantly improving the processes for distance learning should we be forced to transition to that model at some time during our school year.

SECONDARY

- On campus, secondary students will follow a FULL block schedule to reduce passing times & personal contact.
- We are exploring several options to continue our secondary chapel and spiritual development program within the current guidelines.
- In the event absences increase, we are preparing to deliver instruction to students remotely using technology that will allow students to participate and not fall behind.
- If a teacher is unable to come to work, a substitute teacher will be present in the classroom. When the teacher is able, he/she will connect from home and provide instruction and guidance in partnership with the substitute teacher.
- We have increased our student academic support services and hired a licensed professional counselor for student social/emotional support services.



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM



ELEMENTARY

- Each elementary classroom will be considered as a family cohort. The cohort classroom will operate at school as a unit with minimal exposure to other students and adults in the building.
- With the exception of Physical Education, all Specials classes will be conducted in the cohort's classroom with the Specials teacher coming to each classroom. Equipment that is shared (ie, music instruments, shared equipment will be cleaned between class use.)
- Weekly chapels will take place using creative ways for all elementary students to participate in chapel.
- Students will eat lunch in their classroom with their classmates. Weather permitting, on a rotating basis, classes will be allowed to eat outside on the school picnic tables.
- Weather permitting (not raining and temperatures above 10 degrees) students will go outside for recess. The recess schedule has been divided into 3 groups to reduce the number of students outside at a time. Play structures will be sanitized during school days.
- In the event we are required to implement distance learning, OCS is exploring the concept of partnering with parents to create in home OCS learning pods.



STUDENT LIFE AND LOGISTICS



OCS continues to evaluate and determine the best plans for the following activities and logistics as we re-open in accordance with the Phase 4 safety protocols. Additional details and specifics are included in the FAQ page.

- **SCHOOL DAY LOGISTICS**

Changes include (but are not limited to) drop-off and pick-up location and times, scheduling, hallway movement, lunchroom and large group gatherings.

- **CLASSROOMS**

Class sizes are limited and unnecessary items have been removed in elementary and secondary classrooms to allow greater distancing and appropriate seating configurations.

- **LUNCHROOM**

- High School lunch will be split into two sections with limited students at each table.
- Middle School lunch will be staggered release with limited students at each table.
- Elementary lunch will be served in the classrooms.

- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Classes will be outside as weather permits. Indoor classes will include activities with appropriate measures.

- **BAND/CHOIR/ORCHESTRA**

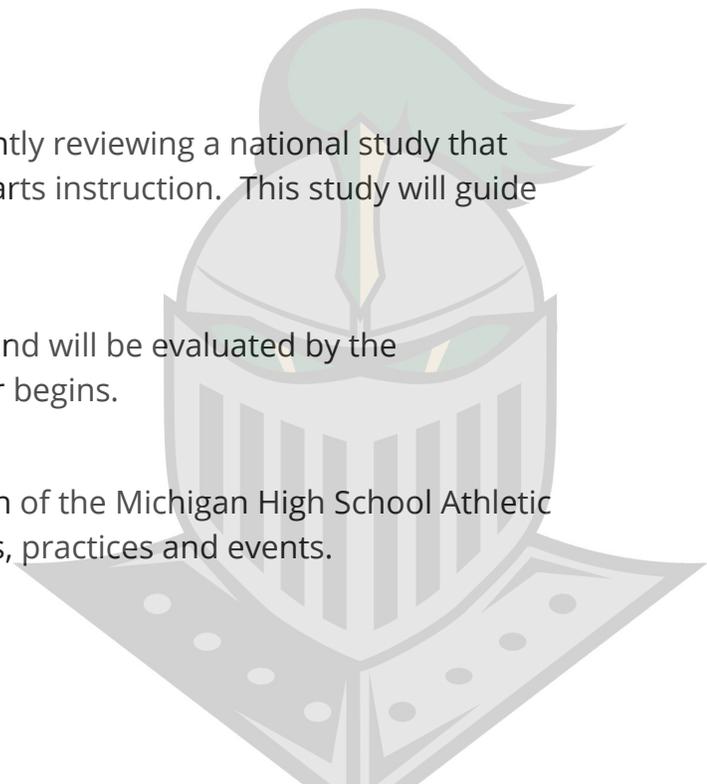
The performing arts department is currently reviewing a national study that addresses best practices for performing arts instruction. This study will guide how classes will begin.

- **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extra-curricular activities are permitted, and will be evaluated by the administration team after the school year begins.

- **ATHLETICS**

OCS will follow the guidance and direction of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) for all athletic teams, practices and events.



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. (Habbakuk 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
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Michigan Association of School Nurses
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan High School Athletic Association

INITIAL CONTACTS:

Dr. David Hook, Secondary Principal
Mr. Gordon Nickel, Elementary Principal
Mrs. Heather Lewis, School Nurse

