

July 20, 2020 – Monday Update – 3 Weeks from the Start of School

Dear Knoxville Christian School Knight Family,

We are committed to bringing 100% of our students back to campus in August. This multi-faceted plan is grounded on the most current CDC guidelines and reflects months of research from our COVID response team with different areas of expertise, addressing issues that lead to a safe, sustained return. As you review this plan, please keep in mind that it is the responsibility of every one of us to do our very best to keep our community safe. Whether it's temperature checks, face coverings, or social distancing, we rely on every person to do their part.

Our decisions are based on creating a learning environment for students where they can thrive while building in measures for safety. Let us enter into this academic year with a sureness of spirit, aware that with both prayer and diligent preparation, we can achieve great things. It is with excitement that I anticipate the blessings of this year, and it is with certainty that I put my trust in our Lord to lead us forward, together.

Robert W “Bobby” Simpson
Head of School

FOLLOWING IS THE LATEST FROM KNOXVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND OUR RETURNING TO CAMPUS. ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NECESSARY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE START OF SCHOOL.

RETURN TO CAMPUS - WE'RE SO GLAD TO SAFELY WELCOME YOU BACK!

We understand that these are unusual times, and it is our mission to alleviate anxiety by promoting transparency in our plans and practices. Knoxville Christian School is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all who step foot onto our campus.

KCS STANDARDS

- Create a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff
- Ensure high-quality education that promotes student learning
- Comply with governmental standards, guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Knox County Health Department, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- Speak candidly about expectations from us and all members of the Knoxville Christian School community

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The KCS Academic Calendar is on our website at KCSKnights.org, under Student Life. Knoxville Christian School will begin the 2020-2021 academic year on Monday, August 10, 2020. This will be a full day for all students. We plan to observe the dates listed on this calendar for the school year. Please note that some on-campus activities may be postponed or canceled due to potential health risks. These items are noted on the calendar but are subject to change should conditions allow.

Our ultimate goal during this school year is for the safety of our students, faculty and staff. With this in mind, while we do not anticipate unforeseen interruptions, we do feel satisfied that we can make the appropriate adjustments as necessary and continue with the education of each student.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Knoxville Christian School will be focused on maintaining a healthy campus. Each morning every student (or parent as appropriate) will be asked a series of questions upon arrival on campus to ensure that each is feeling well and ready to the school day. This listing of questions should also be asked at home before coming to school. Additionally, every student will be scanned to ensure that he/she does not have a fever. These simple tasks will take place at or near the appropriate drop off area for each student. A more detailed explanation will be forthcoming as we get closer to the start of school.

PRIORITIZING STUDENT HEALTH - WE ARE DEDICATED TO KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE & HEALTHY

FACE COVERINGS

- The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings, especially in areas where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Cloth face coverings provide an additional barrier to respiratory droplets that may easily travel in the air and infect others.
- Cloth face coverings may keep those who are unaware that they have the virus from spreading it to others.
- All faculty/staff & students in grades K-12 are required to wear face coverings while in community spaces such as hallways, gymnasiums, and traveling from class to class, including outside. Face coverings may be removed once students are seated at their desk, provided social distancing is possible, and while eating lunch. Secondary students may be asked to wear their face covering if working in a small group setting or closely with a faculty member.
- Secondary faculty will wear face coverings or a clear face shield while teaching if unable to distance 6 feet from students.
- Face coverings may not have words or inappropriate graphics; KCS branded face coverings or monogrammed face coverings are acceptable.
- For a guide to make your own cloth face covering, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>

PRIORITIZING STUDENT HEALTH - WE ARE DEDICATED TO KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE & HEALTHY

STUDENT WELLNESS

- We want to offer our support and do what we can to ensure your safety and the safety of all students and employees.
- Any student who has been absent for health reasons will work with our administration to coordinate an individualized "return to school" plan in accordance with CDC guidelines before returning to campus.
- Students and faculty/staff should not to come to campus if feeling ill.

THE SCHOOL DAY

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

- Elementary pick-up and drop-off will remain much the same. However, only Early Learning Center (18 months – PK4) parents may enter the building, if necessary. All parents who enter the building are required to wear a face-covering, have a temperature scan, and answer the questionnaire.
- Pick-up and drop-off for secondary students (MS/HS) will remain the same. No visitors (parents, siblings, etc.) may enter the buildings. Temperature checks and questionnaire will take place at student drop off, or student drive through (if self-driving) before parking.
- All students (K-12) must wear a face covering upon arrival and departure.
- If you are coming outside of normal hours for late drop-off or early check-out, please call the school main line (865-966-7060) and you will be directed to the appropriate building. Students will be escorted outside.
- Further guidelines will be communicated as necessary.

LUNCH / SNACK

- During this time, Early Learning Center (18 months – PK4) and elementary students (K-5th) will not have lunch in the cafeteria. Each class will have lunch in an area that will allow for social distancing. This could be in the classroom, gym or outside on nice days. Our cafeteria will bring ordered meals to each student and each classroom. It is still acceptable for students to bring their lunch each day. It should be noted that access to a microwave for heating purposes will not be available. Our monthly lunch menu will be posted at least one week before the upcoming month.
- Secondary students (MS/HS) will also be able to bring their lunch or order from the cafeteria. These students will go through the cafeteria line to pick up food and then proceed to the daily pre-determined lunch area that will allow for social distancing. This could be back to the classroom of the previous class period, the gym or outside.
- We have enhanced cleaning protocols as we seek a safe and healthy lunch experience for our students.
- Social distancing will be enforced during lunch breaks.

OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING (FIELD TRIPS, ETC.)

- We are working hard to keep our school environment safe. In an effort to keep our students' safety first, we believe it best to forego field trips for the time being. You, the parent, will be informed if an opportunity arises that could prove to be educationally beneficial with extremely low risk.
- This decision, like all decisions, was made with the wellbeing of our students in mind. It is our hope that a brief hiatus of field trips will yield health for many years to come.
- We look forward to resuming off-campus learning opportunities just as soon as we can.

PRIORITIZING STUDENT SUCCESS -

WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING ACADEMIC RIGOR AND GROWTH ACADEMICS

ACADEMICS

As we begin a new year at Knoxville Christian, the administrative team is making great strides to make all of the necessary changes to the physical classroom to provide safety for our students while continuing to offer a continuum of academic services that meet the needs of our students, and maintaining the credits that students need to move to the next level. KCS believes that learning is strengthened by the personal interactions our teachers have with our students. For this and many other reasons, in August of 2020, we plan to welcome students back to classrooms and continue challenging them with extensive learning opportunities for our youngest to our oldest learners.

Our Academic Leadership Team highly values the element of having students physically present in the classroom to provide meaningful and engaging lessons that require critical thinking and collaboration with one another, therefore, this is our ultimate goal.

PLEASE NOTE:

- For students who are absent due to illness, lesson plans, assignments, etc. will be available on FACTS.
- Teachers will be available to provide academic support if a student finds themselves unable to attend class in person due to illness.
- KCS staff is equipped for online learning opportunities, should it become necessary.
- Students will not share school supplies.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Students will sit in the same desks, in each classroom, each day. Desks will remain staggered in arrangement and remain stationary.
- Students will be grouped into cohorts as much as possible, when necessary. Cohorts allow for a small group of students to be quarantined when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- All students (K-12) should wear a face covering to school each day, in all community spaces, and when social distancing is not possible.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The administration will coordinate with parents and students (as appropriate) as administration will be the final authority in determining the safest re-entry date for the student. Absences incurred during a time of quarantine or mandated absence will not count against the total absences for students; therefore, make up time will not be required. The returning student will still be required to complete missed course work according to the Knoxville Christian handbook.

MODIFYING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

CHAPEL

Our chapel team is working hard to creatively plan chapels for each area of school. We are excited about the unique possibilities of small group chapels and new ways of sharing God's word and worshipping together while social distancing.

BEFORE & AFTER CARE/HOMEWORK ACADEMY

KCS will continue to offer Before & After Care and Homework Academy each day. Guidelines will be communicated from staff regarding details.

ATHLETICS

Our full athletic program is being coordinated by the Athletic Director in compliance with state and local mandates. We will distribute this plan later in the summer before school starts. Athletic events may include limits on crowd sizes & social distancing measures.

POTENTIAL INTERRUPTIONS

It is possible that outbreaks of COVID-19 could occur and hinder our ability to meet together on campus. In the event of such an occurrence, Knoxville Christian will follow government restrictions and continue to comply with CDC guidelines. If need be, we will close campus and be prepared to provide quality education to our students remotely. This will serve as a last resort. Please refer to the Knoxville Christian School website under Academics, and COVID-19 information as to School Operating Levels 0-3. It will be the intention of KCS that this would be a very short-term situation should it arise.

LIFE ON CAMPUS

- Limited campus access for visitors and parents; no lunch guests, only scheduled parent meetings
- Institution of capacity limits to allow for social distancing in common areas, gyms, etc.
- Requirement of face coverings for all faculty and K-12 students when changing classes, in community spaces, and when social distancing is not possible.
- Modifications of programs and events in compliance with limits on crowd sizes and social distancing measures
- Increased sanitizing and cleaning procedures
- Water fountains disabled until further notice. Students to bring personal water bottles labeled with first & last name using permanent marker
- Health screenings for students, faculty, staff and vendors
- Isolation of students displaying symptoms during the school day until parent pick up

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- **WITHOUT SYMPTOMS WITH A POSITIVE TEST:** If a student tests positive without symptoms, they must stay home in isolation for ten days. They may not return to school until the mandatory ten-day isolation period elapses. If a student is positive with no symptoms, they may return ten days after the day of testing with a required doctor's release.
- **COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS WITH OR WITHOUT A POSITIVE TEST:** Student may not return to school until they are fever-free for three days and respiratory symptoms have improved, and ten days since the first onset of the symptoms. We require a doctor's release verifying a return to school after the aforementioned criteria are met.
- **IF A PARENT OR SOMEONE ELSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF A KCS STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TESTED:** Student(s) should quarantine for 14 days. The student may return after 14 days unless they become symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms. Please see the above requirements in the COVID POSITIVE TEST criteria. If the household member tests negative, the student is eligible to return to school, if KCS Administration deems the student is eligible to return.

- **IF A FACULTY MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE:** Students in their class would only need to be quarantined if they have been in close contact (inside six feet for more than fifteen minutes) with the teacher. Teachers will be instructed to wear their face covering/shield while communicating in close proximity (less than six feet for more than fifteen minutes) with students.
- **GUIDELINES FOR MANDATORY QUARANTINE:** If your student has a classmate that tests positive for COVID-19, they may need to be quarantined if:

They were in close contact as defined by the CDC: Less than six feet for more than fifteen minutes. In this scenario, not every student may require quarantine; however, any student that had close contact would be expected to stay home for fourteen days. Parents have the option to keep students home for the 14 day quarantine.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are again excited to partner with you, our families, as we provide a quality Christian education to our students. As stated earlier, we believe in the power of prayer and ask that you continue to pray for our school, our students and families, and our community. Should you have any questions you can send an email to info@kcsknights.org.