



SAFE RETURN: REOPENING PLAN

Summer 2020



TRUE NORTH
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

DEAR FAMILIES AND COLLEAGUES,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying your summer. As we approach the upcoming school year, we want to share with you our plan to reopen our schools in the fall.

Over the last two months, our school leadership team has worked relentlessly to design an approach that balances the safety of our students and staff with the return to a learning environment that allows our students to thrive. The team included feedback from parents, faculty, best practices being shared by charter network schools, health professionals, Jackson Health Systems, technologists, instructional experts, and the Florida Department of Education and Department of Health.

We designed our plan to maintain a healthy building environment, to provide flexibility for distance learning and prepare for future contingencies. Our plan is built to adjust to evolving conditions regarding COVID-19 and we will update you further over the summer as appropriate.

All of our plans are informed by and consistent with current state and national public health guidelines, and our plans will evolve if guidelines and orders are adjusted. While we know most families plan to return to campus we will maintain the remote learning access we provided this past spring.

Please review the six-point plan that follows and do not hesitate to reach out to school leadership with any questions or feedback.

We are deeply grateful for you—all our families and staff—for all the resilience and resolve you have shown in recent months. We look forward to the new school year.

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NATIONAL & STATE GUIDANCE



The most recent CDC guidelines on opening schools sorts its recommendations according to the degree of community spread. In the case of no community spread, the CDC recommends that schools intensify cleaning and disinfection strategies, actively monitor students and staff for absenteeism, limit large group gatherings to only essential activities, and require sick students and staff to stay home.

In the case of moderate community spread, school leaders are also asked to consider social distancing strategies for classrooms and movement in buildings and to accommodate the needs of students and families at high risk. When a school has a confirmed case, the CDC recommends that the school closes for a short period of time.

All levels and sources of guidance are consistent in recommending individual screenings, social distancing, and enhanced sanitizing procedures as the main prevention strategies. They also emphasize the need to have a comprehensive incident response plan and a set of dual contingency plans in place: one for students and faculty who need to stay at home for long periods of time and another to be enacted in the event of a full-school shutdown.

Continued shutdown of schools can negatively impact student health, and disruptions to instructional time can have a severe impact on a child's ability to learn. Prolonged closures can cause stress and anxiety due to the loss of peer interaction and disrupted routines. Risks are amplified in marginalized communities. The longer at-risk children are out of school, the less likely they are to return. The latest guidance from the American Association of Pediatrics states, "the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school."

SOURCES

1. Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Center for Disease Control
2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Schools, National Association of Independent Schools
3. Recommendations to Reopen Florida's Schools, Florida Department of Education
4. American Academy of Pediatrics, COVID-a9 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry

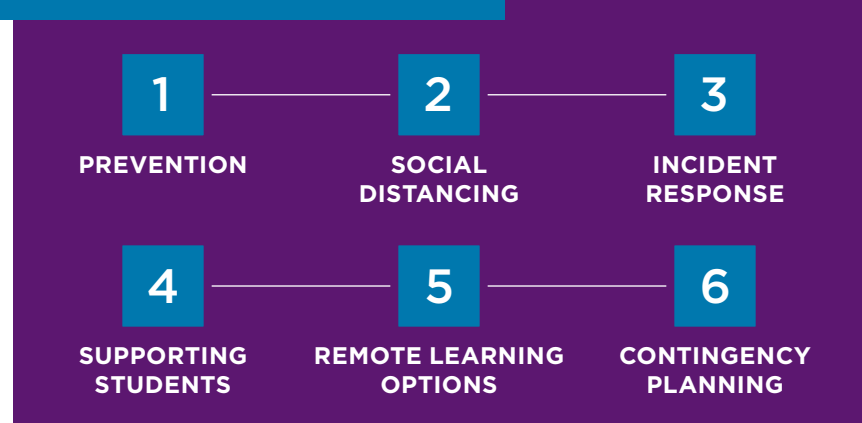
SIX-POINT REOPENING PLAN

Throughout these challenging times, we have kept our students and staff safe and healthy while continuing to provide engaging educational content. Our decisions have been based on the most up-to-date public health guidance and data, best practices for remote education, and a commitment to our unique mission as a classical school. Uniting physical health and intellectual development into one seamless goal, keeps with our vision of educating the entire student. As we look towards reopening our schools in August, those two goals remain united as our north star.

Over the last two months, a team of our school leadership has been engaged in a process of listening to parents, teachers, and health care executives, local, state and federal leaders as well as consulting with other charter school operators, private school and public school districts. Informed by this research, we have developed a comprehensive, six-point plan designed to keep our students, faculty, and staff healthy, provide flexibility for families unable to return, and plan for future contingencies. The plan is consistent with state and national public health guidelines with these design principles:

1. Healthy student formation requires unstructured time with their peers and teachers outside of direct instruction of class material.
2. In person engagement is essential to the human experience and needs to be allowed in the proper contexts.
3. Technology is a powerful tool, but no matter how well developed, it cannot fully replace the learning, instruction and moral development that takes place in a live classroom.
4. All plans must be flexible to allow for maximum student academic and character development regardless of the mode of instruction that is required.

2020-2021 REOPENING



1

PREVENTION

Screening begins at home by being aware of common symptoms and situations related to COVID-19. If the answer to any of the following questions is “yes,” a family must inform the school and keep a student home.

- *Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, shortness of breath, cough, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or a recent loss of taste or smell?*
- *Have you come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?*
- *Have you traveled out of the country in the last 14 days?*

For at least the first quarter of the school year, all students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be screened upon arrival using instant temperature checks. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° or greater will be asked to return home. During the day, symptomatic students will be sent to the office for evaluation.

Campus tours and classroom visits will be temporarily suspended.

Following CDC guidelines, we are increasing the amount of routine and nightly cleaning, with a focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas utilizing electrostatic sprayers capable of continual disinfecting.

Classroom and building entrances will have available hand sanitizer.

We will comply with all state and local requirements for mandatory face coverings. Beyond those requirements, any individual may choose to wear one. All visitors with a need to move beyond the front office will be required to wear a face covering.

High grade MERV 10 HVAC filters will be installed at all campuses. Our new buildings AC system is upgraded with ionization technology to safely clean the air inside our new facilities.

All students, faculty, and staff will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when entering the building or a classroom and before and after lunch and snack.

2

SOCIAL DISTANCING



The spacing in between desks will be increased as much as the classroom space allows, and with limited exceptions desks will all face forward.

Students will be kept in the same class group as much as possible throughout the day. The number of rooms a student is in throughout the day will be limited.

Bell schedules will be staggered to reduce the number of students in the hallway by 30-50%.

Lunch periods will be staggered to keep lunch room occupancy at 50% and tables will be set in outside spaces to allow students to have lunch outside of the building.

Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be structured to limit the size of student groups. We will be implementing an automated, school dismissal system to structure carline that limits the number of students at the curb at dismissal.

Athletics teams will continue to practice and compete under the proper protocols with temperature checks prior to practices and events.

Field trips will be suspended for the first quarter.

3

INCIDENT RESPONSE



Each campus has an established response team that will work with Florida Department of Health and the Miami Dade County Health Department to identify and respond to primary or secondary COVID-19 exposure.

Following CDC guidelines, if a student or employee has tested positive for COVID-19, we will work with state and local health authorities to determine the proper course of action, which may include a temporary school closure to allow for a deep cleaning and sanitizing of the entire building as well as community testing.

If a student or employee is experiencing a fever, we will follow CDC guidance on testing and are working to establish a rapid testing provider for our families. Students will be given work to complete from home during a prolonged absence.

4

SUPPORTING STUDENTS



The fourth quarter of last school year was challenging for students, families, and teachers. We are very proud of the work our faculty did to provide high-quality and engaging lessons and educational activities in a remote environment. To provide support in transitioning from remote learning back to the physical classroom, we have implemented the following:

- Our leadership and faculty continue summer coordination meetings with teachers to identify and plan for curricular coverage gaps.
- We launched and continue to expand robust summer learning opportunities to ensure a smooth transition back to the classroom.
- Students were assessed at the end of the year and new students were assessed during the summer to determine where extra academic support and remediation are needed.
- We will increase the amount of student tutoring and support for students.

5

REMOTE LEARNING OPTIONS



We know we are going to have to be flexible given the level of uncertainty and are spending the summer investing in technology tools, platforms and training to ensure smooth transitions from live classroom to remote locations.

Our distance learning last school year was developed around several goals:

- Ensure the highest levels of student engagement
- Maximize student learning and maintain high expectations of academic possibilities with virtual live instruction as the primary mode of instruction
- Ensure all students were encouraged and supported by establishing student support teams for struggling students

We have spent the summer improving our capabilities by investing in the following platforms to ensure these goals are met:

- Unique partnership with Florida Virtual School whereby True North teachers lead the virtual course and increase the quality and rigor of the content through supplemental and direct instruction. We launched six course summer offerings and currently have about 50% of our middle and upper school students enrolled.
- Live stream capabilities utilizing Swivl technology to allow synchronous learning in a distance/hybrid learning environment where we can have student's learning live in a classroom and other students joining the class from a remote location.
- Increase training and development of the Google Classroom / Zoom environment and all students will be enrolled in this platform regardless of learning location.

6

CONTINGENCY PLANNING



In the event that school closure is required, students will participate in a complete, well-designed program of digitally-delivered remote learning that is enhanced beyond our offerings last year.

Our investment in additional technology platforms will allow for seamless delivery of content through our learning platforms. All students will be given Google Classroom accounts at the start of the year. Faculty will go through extensive professional development programs starting three weeks prior to the first day of school as well as the training that has been occurring over the summer.

During remote learning, live video instruction with direct teacher contact will occur every day of the week. Assessments and assignments will be graded and frequent feedback given to ensure student mastery and accountability.

True North can provide families access to technology necessary to participate in remote learning.