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From the Head of School

Last March, the world entered a comprehensive reset process, creating both challenges and opportunities in every area of life. By God's grace, Oroville Christian school has both survived and thrived by:

1. Praying and seeking the wisdom needed to both honor and glorify God in each stage.
2. Teachers who worked diligently to find and implement the innovations needed to provide the best care possible for students and families.
3. Leadership paying close attention to financial details.

It is my observation that by meeting these challenges we have emerged a better school. Our faculty and staff are approaching the upcoming academic year with an "all things new" attitude that puts us in a position to have a successful start to the school year on August 12.

Take a look at the information provided here and stay close to your email as updates will be provided regularly in the time leading up to the start of school.

Soli Deo Gloria

Mark Bates

General Guidelines For the Start of School

- Consideration is given to what is safe, what is legal, and what our community will support. It is acknowledged that these criteria will not always align, we may not always agree, and evidence can be contradictory. However, we are provided an opportunity to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31).
- As much as possible, no child should be excluded from coming to school. Our mission is to evangelize and disciple and that does not happen virtually (Matt 2:15).
- Flexibility and adaptation will be necessary - be ready!
- The plan should be practical and appropriate, balancing the best we know about disease prevention and optimal academic practices. Does the harm outweigh the benefits?
- Any changes are meant to mitigate, not eliminate, risk.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What will the schedule be like? We are proceeding with a 5-day a week, full schedule for grades K-8. Pre-Kindergarten will have the same scheduling options they have had in past years.

2. What health guidelines are in place? We are using the summertime to install hand sanitizers and air purifiers in every classroom and retrofitting the drinking fountains to be water bottle filling stations. Students will have their temperature taken at the start of each school day. Classroom procedures will be altered to reduce or eliminate shared items.

3. Are masks required? While masks will not be required, it is recommended that students in grades 5-8 wear them when indoors and social distancing cannot be maintained. All students are encouraged to wear masks during drop off and pickup times and during EDSS.

4. What will recess and P.E. look like? While free play before and after school may look a little different, the students will have plenty of opportunity to run around and play during the day. In fact, many of the recommendations encourage more outdoor activities.

How will the school communicate a Covid related issue to families? Keep in mind that privacy laws will require us to temper the amount of information that we can provide. However, there will be three levels of communication, based on the severity of the exposure, and each will have a different response. They are:

- ◇ *Your student has come in contact with someone who has been exposed to Covid.* In this case, a letter or email will be sent home informing you of the exposure and will ask you to monitor your child for symptoms.
- ◇ *Your student has come in contact with someone who has Covid.* Depending upon the severity and the recommendations of the local health officials, you may be asked to quarantine your child for a specified period or have your child tested.
- ◇ *Your child is demonstrating symptoms of Covid (fever, runny nose, cough, muscle aches).* In this case, your child will be removed from class and isolated on campus until you are able to pick them up. To return to school, your child will need to be symptom free for 72 hours and return with a negative test result.

6. What will chapel and other school functions look like? To slow the possible spread and increase our likelihood of remaining open for the year, students in each class will be considered a cohort. The goal will be to eliminate the interaction between students in different classes/grades. Thus, while it is our intention to provide as much normalcy as possible, some of these programs may look or function differently than they have in the past.

7. What about preschool? While we can and will tighten up our procedures, many of the guidelines are consistent with what the preschool has always done (hand sanitization, recording temperatures, etc.). The pre-K classes will continue to minimize interaction with other groups at school and regularly wash hands and surfaces. Utilizing outdoor space and limiting visitors will be an added emphasis.

8. What if I need to keep my kid home for an extended period? Teachers will set up and utilize Google Classroom early in the school year. This will ensure a smooth transition if a student is required to learn remotely.

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. @ Timothy 1:7

Oroville Christian School