



REDEEMER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2020-2021

K through 8

Reopening Plan

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Introduction

The COVID-19 Coronavirus remains with us and Redeemer Christian School will likely not return to normalcy until there is a vaccine or a cure. Redeemer families, students and staff will need to be flexible and nimble, understanding that the priority of protecting the health of our students may require changes in procedures.

Guiding Principles

Loving thy neighbor is the overriding principle needed for this school year. Much conflict and strife in our nation needs God's love for the answer, and we are His instrument and mechanism for that love to be shared to those around us. School will look different than it did before March 13, 2020. To best protect the health of and safety of our students, RCS will abide by mandates from the Governor, the Ohio Department of Education, the Summit County Board of Health and local government. Any recommendations given by these entities will be given due consideration. Whatever the circumstances, we remain committed to providing a loving Christian environment which supports the whole child. While it is our goal to prepare and plan as best as we possibly can, all plans are subject to change based on government and health department mandates or recommendations. Please note situations may arise where adjustments must be made quickly. Communication is key and families are asked to regularly monitor their email and Remind messages.

It is the plan of RCS to operate on-campus full time, five days a week with precautions in place for the 2020-2021 school year. We will follow the school calendar with the following changes:

In order to allow students and families to become better acquainted with the new procedures, the first days of school will be staggered by grade and each student's last name.

- 1) Students in Kindergarten, 5th grade, 6th grade and 8th grade with last names starting A through M

Students in 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade with last names starting A through J

Students in 7th grade with last names starting A through D

Will start school at the regular start time for a full day on Wednesday, September 2

- 2) Students in Kindergarten, 5th grade, 6th grade and 8th grade with last names starting N through Z

Students in 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade with last names starting K through Z

Students in 7th grade with last names starting E through Z

Will start school at the regular start time for a full day on Thursday, September 3

Families with multiple children that may have different start days or families with multiple children that have different names will be notified by the main office as to which first day of school your children will be attending.

- 3) All students will report on Friday, September 4 - regular start time, full day. Opening chapel will take place this day and will be streamed to each classroom.

If RCS is mandated or chooses to be closed, we will transition to remote learning. Our goal with remote learning would be to maximize instructional opportunities, building on the experiences learned during the last part of the 2019-2020 school year.

Policies and Procedures

RCS is addressing these specific items in the reopening plan:

1) Health screening procedures and policies

Parents/Guardians must be on alert for signs of illness in their children and must keep them home when they are sick. If your child is running a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and/or has symptoms that are listed below in the health screening questions, please do keep them home.

Pre-drop off

Parents/Guardians will need to fill out a daily health screening questionnaire before bringing their child to school. It will come to parents/guardians electronically in a Google Form. Filling out the form will include parents/guardians giving the name and grade of the student and answering yes and no to the following questions...

Has your child been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 outside of school?

Has your child had a fever or chills in the last 48 hours?

Is your child having shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?

Does your child have any flu-like symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)?

Is your child experiencing a cough?

Has your child had muscle aches or fatigue?

Does your child have a headache?

Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?

Does your child have a sore throat?

Is your child congested or have a runny nose?

If any of the bolded questions above are answered yes, please keep your child home. If two or more of the non-bolded questions are answered yes, please keep your child home.

Drop off (diagram on the final page of this document)

The drop off process will start across the street in the parking lot.

To avoid too much traffic back up on 5th Street, it is requested that all vehicles come off of Portage Trail and enter the main parking lot through the access near Portage Trail where the vehicles will loop around to the other side off the parking lot. Once the vehicles are at the other access point of the parking lot, an attendant will let you know when you can turn right to leave the parking lot to then turn left to enter the turnaround adjacent to campus.

Once in the turnaround, vehicles will wait their turn to enter the drop off screening protocol. Three attendants will be at the end of the drop off loop to conduct temperature taking and the health screening.

Attendants will follow proper hand hygiene and will wear a face covering.

Attendants will start temperature taking and health screening at 8:29am.

Attendants will ask the driver to roll down their window and the student(s) windows.

Attendants will use a non-contact, temporal thermometer to take temperatures.

Any student with a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will need to stay in the car and will not be able to attend school.

The answers from the questionnaire will be collected and verified. If a student does arrive to school with health screening answers that qualifies the student to stay home, the student will need to stay in the car and will not be able to attend school.

If a student arrives in the turnaround but the health screening answers have not been answered, the driver will be asked to park at St. Luke's to answer the health screening questionnaire. If there is enough time, the driver may re-enter the drop off protocol at the first entry point off of the main parking lot. Otherwise, the driver will need to walk the student across the street into the office so that the student may have their temperature taken.

Students that are able to attend school for the day will leave their vehicle and go toward their classrooms.

Students must put on a mask before they enter the building.

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade will enter through the main entrance.

3rd Grade and 4th Grade will enter through the FLC entrance.

5th through 8th Grade will enter through the Narthex (church entrance).

Sanitation stations will be at each entrance.

Vehicles are then able leave the turnaround by turning left to head toward Broad Boulevard or turning right to head toward Portage Trail.

If students will be coming late to school, the adult bringing the student(s) must park in the St. Luke parking lot and walk their student(s) across the street and enter with the student(s) via the main entrance. The main office will then conduct the health screening.

During the school day

Students will have their temperature taken sometime during the afternoon.

Any student with a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent to the sickroom and, once the office is able to get in contact with someone who can pick up the student, will go home/to the doctor as soon as possible.

Students that either vomit, have diarrhea or show enough of the other symptoms from the screening questions will also be sent to the sickroom and, once the office is able to get in contact with someone who can pick up the student, will go home/to the doctor as soon as possible.

Students with allergies

Students that have allergies (where constant coughing, sneezing, runny nose and/or watery eyes may/will occur) need to have doctor's documentation stating that they do have allergies and that constant coughing, sneezing, runny nose and/or watery eyes may/will occur. This may help with determining if these students are ill or are dealing with their allergies. If students with allergies have constant coughing, sneezing and/or runny nose, teachers have the right to request that the student keep their mask on while in the classroom. Students with allergies that are constantly coughing, sneezing or having a runny nose may still end up being sent to the sickroom. Students with allergies that are constantly coughing, sneezing and/or having a runny nose may be requested to stay home until the coughing, sneezing and/or runny nose is managed.

Returning to school

If a student has one or more of the following symptoms...

Fever, chills, cough, nasal congestion, runny nose, loss of taste, loss of smell, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, stomachache, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, body aches and/or poor appetite...

Families currently have two options on how their child(ren) may return to school:

- 1) If a student is to return to campus as soon as possible, the student needs to stay off campus until the symptoms have completely cleared (for at least 24 hours or as long as it takes) and bring a doctor note stating that the student is fit to return to school

OR

- 2) A family may choose to forgo a doctor visit but must have their child stay off campus for a minimum of 240 hours (a minimum of 10 days) or as long as it takes until the symptoms have completely cleared.

Even if they are not showing any symptoms, all siblings (that also attend RCS) of the student(s) that is/are showing symptoms must also stay off campus. Siblings are able to return to campus when the symptom-showing sibling is cleared of symptoms for 24 hours with a doctor note or after staying off of campus for 336 hours (14 days), whichever comes first.

Any and all students, parents/guardians and others who may live in the student's home who is exposed to COVID-19, presumed to have COVID-19 and/or test positive for COVID-19 requires that the SCBH and school be notified so that the SCBH can conduct an investigation. From there, RCS and any and all people involved in the SCBH's investigation will follow the steps determined by the SCHB. Anyone that has not yet tested for COVID-19 but the SCBH determines to be exposed to COVID-19 will need to be tested for COVID-19. Anyone tested for COVID-19 and receives a negative result may return to school after 10 days have passed with a doctor's note proving the negative test. Anyone tested for COVID-19 and receives a positive result are to be off campus for a minimum of 14 days and may not return until a negative test is recorded and that person comes to school with a doctor's note proving the negative test.

If the doctor's note (whether it be obtained through an actual visit to the doctor, a note from the doctor that gets faxed to the school after doing a telehealth checkup, etc.) is needed, please make sure that you request the doctor to give you a note or the doctor sends a note to school stating that your child can return to school.

RCS will also notify staff and families immediately of a possible COVID-19 case (student or staff) while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

2) Social distancing strategies

Cubbies and lockers

Cubbies will be assigned to students at a rate of every other cubby. 6th, 7th and 8th grade lockers will be spaced out to the rate of one to every three lockers. To minimize the amount of time students spend at lockers throughout the day, certain lockers will not have locks.

Chapel

Chapel is an important part of RCS. Student participation in the weekly service is a practice and tradition that will continue.

On most weeks, half of the school will be attending chapel in the sanctuary in a social-distant setting. Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 4th grade, 6th grade and 8th grade will attend chapel in the sanctuary while 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade and 7th grade attend chapel in their classrooms via a streamed feed. On other weeks, the grades attending chapel in the sanctuary and the grades attending chapel in their classrooms will flip. On occasion, all grades will attend chapel in their classrooms. Each grade will have equal amount of worship opportunities in the sanctuary and in the classroom.

Parents will not be permitted to attend the chapel services in person. Streaming video will be available to view off site.

At the classroom workspace

Each workspace may have a clear, see through shield. If no shield is on the workspace, this means that the workspace is 6 feet a part in any direction from the next workspace. Student workspaces will face the front of the classroom and provide adequate room for children to do their work.

Classroom capacity

Depending on the classroom size, 14 to 16 students in a classroom will be the cap.

Any transition from the classroom desk

When possible, a six-foot (or an adequate) distance between students will be maintained.

Bathrooms

From the classrooms, students will have designated bathrooms to use and will be sent to use the bathroom one at a time. Art and music classes and lunch periods will send students to the bathroom (off of the fellowship hall/cafeteria) one at a time. PE students will use the FLC bathrooms one at a time. Some bathrooms will have a vacant/occupied sign that students will need to pay attention to. If the sign says occupied, students will need to stand on the spot that is marked on the floor six feet away from the respective bathroom to wait their turn to enter the bathroom.

Drinking Fountains

There is to be no drinking directly from the drinking fountains, but filling stations can be used for water bottles. Each drinking fountain area has a bottle filling station.

Lunch

Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms or, weather permitting, outside. No lunches will be prepared on campus. Students that wish to drink milk will have their milk delivered to the classroom. Research is being done to see if individual lunches through local restaurants can be delivered safely to school. This would be offered once a week (either Monday or Friday). Parents will hopefully be able to order directly through the restaurants. Sanitation stations will be located in the cafeteria.

Recess

Recess will take place on the blacktop portion inside the fenced area behind the school or in the parking lot across the street.

Two walking/running tracks and an activity track will be painted on the playground and can be used by one grade at a time. The playground structure is off limits. Limited and individualized (chalk and jump rope) playground equipment will be allowed on the playground.

The parking lot spaces across the street will allow two grades to be together at a time. Each student will be assigned a parking space that is six feet apart from other parking spaces. Within that parking space, students will be able to use their own supplies (chalk, jump rope, a soft, non-rolling object, etc.).

Both RCS and parents will share the cost of the supplies needed to make recess safe, successful and enjoyable.

PE

4th through 8th grade students will not change into PE uniforms on campus.

On their respective PE days, 1st grade through 8th grade will dress in their PE uniform for the school day. Uniform pieces (short sleeved top and shorts) will be given to all 1st through 4th and 7th grade students. 5th, 6th and 8th grade students may purchase additional uniform pieces. There may be additional PE uniform bottoms (other shorts and jogging pants) for purchase. The purpose of the jogging pants would be to have an option that could be worn over the shorts or in lieu of shorts. If worn over the shorts, the jogging pants could be taken off at PE. If students so choose, the jogging pants could go over the shorts at the end of PE.

PE class will use outdoor space as much as possible. Otherwise, the FLC will be used for indoor PE.

Mrs. Fair will have individualized, six-foot spaced, structured activities ready to go.

Music

5th/6th and 7th/8th bands will have students one 30 minute or less band class a week.

Beginning Band groups will be determined after sign-ups.

There will be at least a 30 minute break between wind groups for air circulation and sanitizing.

Clarinet and brass players must wear a modified disposable mask (mask with a slit) for rehearsals.

Flute players must wear a mask and drop to chin when playing.

Percussion players must wear a mask.

Brass players must have a disposable pad (which will be provided) to empty their spit valves onto during rehearsals.

All players, as able, will use a bell cover on instruments to limit droplet exposure.

Instruments and binders will not be shared and remain in each student's possession.

Students will have a place in homeroom classroom to store instruments on their band day.

If students do not have their instrument on band days, they will remain in their classroom – 0 for day.

All players must use the sanitation station upon entering and leaving the area.

All equipment will be sprayed and sanitized between groups,

All performances this year will be recorded.

Students will sanitize upon entering and exiting the sanctuary for choir.

Students will be placed 6 feet apart or more if possible.

Students will wear masks all the time except when actively singing.

All students will be encouraged to use a "singers mask" or "face bracket" insert for choir rehearsals.

If a "singer's mask" or "face bracket" are used, masks will be left on for the entire rehearsal.

We will keep masks or brackets for students in baggies (marked with names) for use during choir.

Students will have their own folder/equipment and will not share with other students.

Rehearsals will include:

Rhythm review – with masks on

Lyric review – with masks on

Melody review – with masks on (hum or doo on pitch)

Warm-ups – with masks on

Singing – with masks off

All performances will be recorded this year.

Students will social distance and wear masks, dropping them to sing, for recordings.

Students will sanitize upon entering and exiting the sanctuary for hand chimes.

Students will be placed 6 feet apart or more if possible.

Students will wear masks all the time.

Group is limited to 8 students.

Students will have their own folder/equipment and will not share with other students.

Equipment will be sanitized at the end of each rehearsal.

All performances will be recorded this year.

Library

One to two students may be in the library during their scheduled class time. Students must sanitize their hands upon entering the library. Students may browse the shelves but are to keep touching the books to a minimum. If a book is handled but not checked out, the books will be put into a bin for quarantine. Upon return to the library, checked out books will be quarantined for at least 24 hours. No students can enter the library if Mrs. Stofka is not present. No students can enter the library before or after school without permission. Students may check out three items and may keep those items for one week. Checked out books can be renewed up to two times. Checked out library books are to be kept at school. Checked out library books are not to be shared with other students. If students do not return checked out books, they will not be able to check out new books until checked out books are returned.

Technology

Each student will be assigned a device that they are to use on a daily basis. If an extended closure or quarantine situation arises, the device may be taken home.

The computer lab will be set up with clear, see through shields so that computer-use classes can still be conducted.

Dismissal

Kindergarten through 8th grade will wait in their rooms.

Cars are to come through the turnaround and the first car is to wait at the main entrance door and the other cars will form a line.

Students will be notified when their ride has arrived. 5th through 8th grade students will leave through the Narthex (church entrance) doors to walk to their ride and Kindergarten through 4th grade students will go out the main doors to get to their ride.

Vehicles may exit the turnaround in the same manner as during drop off protocol.

If picking up a student early, please park at St. Luke's and enter through the main entrance.

Child Watch (morning and after school)

Only 18 students will be able to be in child watch. Parents will need to sign up for the times and days that they need child watch. This is first come, first serve.

Students will be assigned a seat. They are encouraged to work on homework, read and play with appropriate toys that are brought from home. No electronics devices.

If families are running late for pick up, students may go to after school Child Watch if there is room. Otherwise, they will be taken to an adequately social distanced space to wait to be picked up.

Morning Child Watch drop off can happen from 7am until 8:20am. After care pick up can happen from 3:30pm until 6pm.

Drop off involves parents/guardians/authorized adults to walk students into the main office to begin the screening process. If students are deemed ill, they may not go to before care and school and will need to head immediately back home.

Parents/guardians/authorized adults must come to the main office to pick up students from after school Child Watch.

Visitors

The only visitors allowed on campus are parents/guardians/authorized adults to pick up ill students or students with off campus appointments and delivery personnel.

Visitors will also have their temperatures taken and given a health screening.

3) Face coverings

Paraphrasing Philippians 2:3, "... but in humility, consider others as more important than yourselves." Face coverings (masks) are to be worn by all staff. The use of face coverings for students will be dependent on a variety of factors. We understand that face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Students, particularly older students, are to wear face masks when feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash or sanitize their hands frequently.

Students and faculty will follow face covering protocols set by the Governor, ODE, the SCBH and/or local government.

Students are to bring face coverings from home. RCS will provide face coverings for students who forget their own face mask at home.

If deemed necessary, RCS will provide information to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.

Face coverings will be worn by all Kindergarten through 8th grade students when they will be in common areas such as entering campus, leaving campus, hallways and bathrooms.

Face coverings will not be mandated during physical education classes or while children

are at recess. While students are in these situations, they should store their face covering in a labeled bag.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:

Children younger than 5 years old

Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious

Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Exceptions will be made when there are reasons that students cannot wear a mask, including but not limited to sensory processing issues and physical and behavioral health concerns. Written documentation from a medical doctor or behavioral specialist is required for this exception.

4) Cleaning and disinfecting

RCS will continue to reinforce good habits to stop the spread of germs, including covering sneezes/coughs and handwashing. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when visibly soiled, before eating, and after using the restroom. Soap is readily available in all restrooms throughout the building. This is checked daily. Posters describing hand washing steps are near all sinks. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products are available for personnel and students, especially in high traffic areas - including at each school entrance and in and outside of every classroom.

Surfaces will be frequently cleaned, paying particular attention to high-touch areas:

Door handles and push bars

Stair handrails

Sink faucets

Light switches

Tables, desks and chairs

Cleaning and disinfection should be done after each group of students leaves a facility or classroom, including between class changes (if applicable), between groups in the cafeteria and after each school day.

Sanitizing of classrooms includes the use of an electrostatic spraying unit, designed for public spaces including hospitals, with approved disinfectant.

Students will help wipe down areas they use (mainly workspace areas) with NorWex products. Students will use NorWex products to cut down on the chemicals from the cleaning products on their hands. Adults will follow up with what the students did with appropriate disinfectant supplies.

Many soft surface items will be removed from classrooms. Remaining soft surface items should be able to be washed with disinfectant cleaner on a regular basis or able to be sprayed with disinfectant fabric spray or with the electrostatic spraying unit.

Toys and objects that cannot be easily cleaned and sanitized should be removed from classrooms and/or only used in intentional ways which allow for a period of three or more days to be placed in isolation to allow possible surface contaminants to die off before future use.

Toys and manipulatives will not be shared with other classrooms unless they are sanitized before being moved to another classroom.

Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfecting procedures beyond quarantine periods.

Each classroom will be properly disinfected after use.

For classrooms that are used by multiple classes of children, such as the art room, the classroom must be cleaned multiple times each day.

Bathrooms and other common spaces will be disinfected on a frequent and regular basis.

Internal doors will be propped open wherever and whenever possible to minimize touching of surfaces.

5) **Other**

Classwork away from campus

While we are diligently planning for all RCS students to be in the building five days a week, we recognize that it is likely that there will be many extended absences this year. The teachers are committed to being attentive to the needs of students who must stay home due to illness or possible exposure to COVID-19. Assignments will be posted daily in Google Classroom, and school owned electronic devices will be sent home if needed. As we work across many grade levels and subject areas and with students, families and teachers with varied styles and needs, staff members will be reaching out in different ways including phone calls, text messages, Zoom meetings, and emails to name a few. You are encouraged to communicate with teachers as well; it is our desire to give your child(ren) every opportunity to learn and to feel cared for even when it is not possible for them to be in the building.

Athletics

Our school participates in the Cleveland Lutheran Elementary League, which follows OSHAA guidelines. Sports seasons for RCS this school year may or may not happen depending on SCBH and OSHAA mandates.

Recommendations from these entities will be given due consideration. The number of other schools within our conference willing to play and/or how many athletes we will have for respective teams will also play a factor in RCS participating in respective sports seasons.

Uniform

Normal uniform dress code is to be followed. As stated with PE days though, homerooms with PE days are to dress in their PE uniform. Just like other articles of clothing, masks are to be appropriate.

Temporary Tardiness and Attendance Policy

Students who are tardy to their classroom at arrival will not be counted tardy IF they were present at school and awaiting arrival health screening. If a student has already been screened and is late arriving in class, they will be counted as tardy. PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ARRIVE EARLY IN THE DROP OFF WINDOW IN ANTICIPATION OF MORNING ARRIVAL INVOLVING ADDITIONAL TIME AND STEPS.

Students will not be penalized for higher rates of absenteeism as long as they are documented with the school office regarding the reason, are in line with COVID-19 illness policy guidelines, and work requirement expectations are met.

Students who are in higher risk categories due to medical reasons will not be penalized for additional absenteeism as long as the school office is provided with a doctor's note/order.

Students who are not in attendance due to normal or extended COVID-19 illness policies must meet normal work requirement expectations in quantity, quality, and timeliness as specified in the school handbook under general illness guidelines.

Exceptions exist for students when they or an immediate family member are directly diagnosed with COVID-19; expectations for these individual students will be handled on a case by case basis with their teacher(s) and school administration.

Campus Closure Decisions

RCS will yield and follow any direction provided by the county/state health department regarding recommended or required closure. We will attempt to discuss any potential campus closures with the health department prior to making a decision. We will take the time to communicate and discuss these things with parents and stakeholders - unless we definitely know a campus closure is imminent and an immediate statement is required.

Communication regarding closure or other important health updates will be provided through email and Remind messaging.

Signed Waiver

Each family is to sign a waiver stating that they understand the risk of having their child(ren) on Redeemer's campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. The waiver must be signed for students to attend school at Redeemer.

6) Final thoughts

Paul writes in Ephesians 4, "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." The practices outlined in this plan have been assembled in a way unique to RCS that hopefully will provide as best we can, for the health and safety of students and staff. Patience and understanding with each other will go a long way to allow this year to be successful for all.

Please remember that this plan is subject to change at any time and if changes are made, you will be notified.

Contact Ken Krueger at kkruieger@redeemerlutheran.us if you have questions.

Thank you for keeping RCS a great place to grow!

Original: 7/21/20 at 9:00am

2nd edition: 7/21/20 at 9:16pm

3rd edition: 7/25/20 at 11:31pm

4th edition: 8/11/20 at 7:13pm

5th edition: 9/2/20 at 9:50pm

6th edition: 9/21/20 at 11:10am

7th edition: 9/23/20 at 1:30pm

8th edition: 10/12/20 at 1:18pm

9th edition: 10/12/20 at 4:09pm

10th edition: 1/7/21 at 11:49am

Drop Off Diagram

Stop #1 is where vehicles will wait to enter the turnaround.

Stop #2 is where health screenings will take place.

If arriving late or picking up early, enter St. Luke's parking lot off of 6th Street to park the vehicle to either walk students in through the main entrance or to pick up students from the main entrance.

