



# Bible Baptist Christian School

2780 Mount Carmel Road | Hampton, Georgia 30228 WEEKLY NEWS

July 21, 2020

Dear BBCS families,

Thank you for your patience and support as we have been hard at work planning for our reopening this fall. We look forward to having our BBCS Family back on campus soon. We are also excited for those of you who will choose to join us online. Our plan will be to provide online students with recorded classes, with one day delay and the opportunity to stay connected and current with the daily activities of the classroom.

After doing hours of research, reviewing multiple reopening plans, and ultimately, preparing for our own Reopening Plan, considering other School Reopening Task Force recommendations, American Academy of Pediatrics, [Georgia Department of Education](#), [CDC guidance](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and a wealth of information and recommendations from the AACPS, this is our current plan, subject to change as needed.

Please know that, even with all of our work, we anticipate ongoing and evolving challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. For that reason, flexibility is key as we move forward with the school year ahead. Although our desire is to be together, we understand that there are some families who will not be able to be on campus initially. For that reason, our Reopening Plan includes accommodations for those who will not be able to attend school beginning in August. We believe that our Reopening Plan will serve ALL of our families as we move through this TOGETHER.

Let me share a summary of our strategy and planning efforts for school reopening, and we will provide more detailed information below.

As noted above, our desire is to be together in August - SAFELY. As a result, the entirety of our Reopening Plan is focused on keeping our students and faculty safe and keeping our campus clean and sanitized. We have researched contemporary best practices and accepted standards, as well as the technologies, products, and cleaning materials that we believe will help us accomplish this goal. We will be prepared to move forward with our safety protocols in August.

Our Reopening Plan is based on certain current understandings about COVID-19 and on our desire to maintain a positive learning environment for all students. As a result, we will adapt our Plan as more information about this disease becomes available and/or government mandates are modified. The main mode of COVID-19 spread is from person to person, primarily via droplet transmission. For this reason, our strategies for infection prevention and control will center around this form of spread, and will emphasize physical distancing, optional face coverings as appropriate, minimization of high touch surfaces, disinfection, and hand hygiene.

Finally, this Plan will be implemented in collaboration with the larger community, the advice of health care experts, best practice recommendations, and government requirements and mandates. The school will cooperate fully with appropriate health officials conducting contact disease tracing and related studies.

**PRIORITY NOTE:** Any student who has a fever or who is showing COVID-19 symptoms should not come to the School and should be taken to a qualified medical professional for evaluation immediately. This single factor is KEY to stopping the spread of the virus on our campus.

## **FULL RETURN TO CAMPUS IN AUGUST**

Even with a Full Return to Campus, certain things will be different in 2020-21. With this in mind, here is what you can expect with a Full Return to Campus. As noted above, some of these specific guidelines could change at any time, depending on State or local mandates.

### **Student and Faculty Health and Safety Guidelines**

- We reserve the right to perform temperature checks for all students and faculty each day.
- Students with temperatures of 100 F or above, or who show other active symptoms of COVID-19, will be immediately quarantined and their parents notified that they are to be picked up as soon as possible. Any student with a temperature of 100 F will be required to be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to School. Any student with a temperature of 100 F, who also shows another active symptom of COVID-19, may not return to School until, (1) obtaining a negative COVID-19 test, or (2) having self-quarantined for 14 days following the cessation of symptoms.
- Face coverings properly worn will be essential during times when social distancing is not possible.
- If you or someone in your household has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, and for the safety of others at school, we are requesting that your student stay at home until your student receives a negative COVID-19 test, or has self-quarantined for 14 days following the cessation of any symptoms. Please notify the school immediately of this exposure and your student's status.
- The School has numerous hand-sanitizer stations that will be placed throughout the campus. All students and faculty will have ready access to these stations and will be encouraged to use them regularly. As a new normal, students are encouraged to carry sanitizer with them as a supplement.
- The School will be sanitized on a regular basis with some of the cleaning being done before, during, and after the school day.
- High touch surfaces such as door handles will be cleaned as much as feasible. We will continue to maintain that a student may only access his own locker, keeping that surface from being compromised.
- Air exchange systems have been evaluated to make sure they are working properly.
- Signage across the campus will encourage proper health and hygiene practices, including, among other things, regular handwashing, or use of hand sanitizer, covering any coughs or sneezes with a forearm, and refraining from touching one's face. Teachers will also remind and encourage students to regularly practice these mitigation measures.
- All families will be requested to sign a Waiver and Release at the beginning of school, agreeing to the following: (1) you understand the risks associated with COVID-19; (2) you understand that, in spite of the School's best efforts to keep everyone safe, the School cannot guarantee that no one will contract COVID-19; (3) you agree not to hold the School, or anyone associated

with the School, liable if your child happens to contract COVID-19; and (4) you will immediately notify the school of any family or student exposure to others demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms or positive test results.

### **Classroom Mitigation**

- As practical as possible, requirements and protocols will be in place for social distancing in terms of desk placement, teacher interaction, and other measures; minimization of high touch surfaces and regular cleaning/disinfecting of classrooms and common areas adjacent to classrooms.
- Tissues and hand sanitizers will be available near or in all classrooms, and students will be regularly encouraged to wash their hands.
- When the outside temperature allows it, windows will be kept open where feasible to increase air circulation.

### **After School Care**

- All After School Care activities will follow the applicable guidelines and protocols that will be followed throughout the school day.

### **Outside Visitors**

- We will severely limit visitors to the School, and they will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19.

### **Large Group Gatherings**

- We will continue to monitor State and local guidelines for large group gatherings. Under current guidelines, only groups of 50 or less can gather in a single space, if social distancing cannot be implemented.
- We will continue to have Chapel each week, but students will follow social distancing protocol in the auditorium.
- Field trips will not take place in the fall, and the climate in the spring will determine whether or not spring trips will occur.

### **Lunch**

- We will continue to operate our lunchroom, with several modifications. Microwaves will need to be wiped down after each usage, and tables and chairs will be cleaned after each seating in the staggered schedule.
- To maintain the cleanliness of classrooms, students will not eat lunch in their classrooms.

### **Athletics**

- All athletic teams, practices, and competitions will be governed by the GCAA. The school will comply with all guidelines and requirements that are issued.
- If we find that there are no interschool athletic opportunities, we will substitute an intramural program so that participating students can enjoy competition and practice without the perceived risk of competing with athletes from other schools.

**Other Extracurricular Activities**

- All other extracurricular activities at the school will follow the applicable guidelines and protocols that will be followed throughout the school day.
- Individual coaches, directors, or supervisors may implement additional safety guidelines that will apply to their particular group of students.

**Confirmed COVID-19 Cases on Campus: Return to School**

- The School is continuing to finalize its plan for cases on campus. This plan will be distributed to all families before the beginning of school. Under the plan we are considering, certain portions of the school may be shut down for short periods of time if a student or faculty member tests positive for COVID-19 or presents significant symptoms of the virus. If multiple students or faculty members test positive, then the shut-down could be broader across campus, and for a longer period of time. We are closely monitoring other school and district plans concerning shutdowns for confirmed cases of COVID-19 on campus.
- If such a shutdown is necessary, we will temporarily switch students to on-line learning.