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CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
REOPENING GUIDELINES
2020 - 2021

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDELINES FOR 2020 – 2021

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Introduction

Cornerstone Christian School in New York State is a small independent, evangelical, and interdenominational school with the primary mission of partnering with parents to develop well-educated, spiritually mature persons, dedicated to Christ, equipped to contribute to His church, society, and their own well-being. All of our CCS teachers have either a Master's or Bachelor's degrees in Education, and all are New York State Certified. They take their jobs very seriously and are eager to return to in-person teaching.

During this past period of remote teaching CCS is proud to say that we had 100% participation by our students. Parents were very cooperative, and our teachers went above and beyond with their virtual teaching. Throughout the remote teaching period our CCS teachers were able to continue teaching their full curriculum and we have full confidence that our students will be able to perform on grade level upon their return to school.

The goal of Cornerstone Christian School for the 2020-2021 school year is to reopen for In-Person Instruction. CCS will be limiting the number of students per class to fifteen (15). In order to open safely, and to eliminate the spread of the virus, CCS will be implementing sneeze guards on every student's desk. Students will be required to wear face masks, however, masks may be removed while the student is sitting at their desk surrounded by the sneeze guard.

Upon our return to school in the fall, CCS will be following the guidelines provided by Governor Cuomo, the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Education Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

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Staff Training Prior to The Reopening of School

Our staff will report to school one week prior to the reopening of school. Our staff will be trained in the following areas: health checks, healthy hygiene practices, social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), face coverings, and the proper cleaning and disinfecting of school areas. This training will be conducted by the school nurse, school social worker, school cleaning service, and the school administrator. A separate informational meeting will be held via Zoom for parents.

Social and Emotional Well-being

The racial-related tension and dissension within our nation these past months has impacted us all. The widespread violent protests around the country have been heartbreaking. CCS will be reviewing and updating our school counseling program in order to better service the needs of our returning students, parents, faculty, and staff members. I will urge all parents, students, teachers, and staff members to develop a genuine pursuit of Biblical reconciliation and to continue praying for our nation. I will encourage intentional conversations where empathy, kindness, respect, and understanding differences and similarities are discussed. As we have these impacting conversations with our family, friends, and others, we will begin to see change; and hopefully for the better.

As a response to the ongoing structural racism, added Staff Development training will be implemented to address these issues. Parent workshops, when gatherings are allowed, will also be made available. All workshops and staff developments will be conducted by license certified professionals.

Class Size

The number of students per classroom will be limited to 15 or less, depending on the room size. All students will remain in their classroom for all instruction with their assigned classroom teacher; except for computer class for grades K-5. These students will receive instruction in the computer lab in cohorts of nine students or less per class instruction.

All Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth grade students' desks will be equipped with sneeze guards. This will enable the students to remove their mask while sitting at their desk.

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Remote Teaching

In order to better service our students' needs, we are offering the continuation of remote learning for those parents who are apprehensive about sending their child to school in September. Remote learning would be available for as long as needed. Teachers will live-stream their daily lessons; the student will be able to actively participate along with their teacher and classmates. This comprehensive resource will enable the student to receive their full curriculum as if they were physically present in the classroom.

Assessing Student Academic Performance on Return to School

All students will receive an academic assessment by their teacher on their return to school. The assessment will be used as a tool in measuring whether the student's academic performance dropped during the remote teaching period. Title I, Title III, and Resource Room services will be available for students if needed.

Attendance

Homeroom teachers will be responsible for recording student's daily attendance whether that student is participating remotely or in person. Student attendance will be reported to the main office daily and logged into our attendance system.

School Arrival Procedures

Health and temperature screening of all students, staff, and teachers will be done upon school arrival using a Thermoscan thermometer (NO TOUCH thermometer). Tables will be set-up in the school lobby for the temperature screenings and observation of overt symptoms. Students will be escorted to class, one grade at a time, by the homeroom teacher practicing social distancing. Parents will not be allowed in the building to escort students to their classrooms. If a parent needs to enter the building, they will be given the CDC COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire to complete and sign.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases Within the School Building

Students or any person within the school building who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19. If they present a temperature greater than or equal to 100°F and/or are showing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will remain masked and isolated in a room designated by the school administrator. If the patient is a student, their parent/guardian will be notified immediately for pick up. If the patient is an adult, they will be asked to vacate the premises and see their doctor immediately. The school's custodian will clean the areas used by the individual who showed COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

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Contact Tracing

The school administrator will be responsible for notifying the state and local health department upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test results by any individual within the school facilities or on school grounds. Also, parents of students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be notified of the COVID-19 case. The protocols provided by the New York State Contact Tracing Program will be adhered to.

Closure

If the school should have to close due to lack of containment of the infection, or if closure is otherwise necessary and/or required by the state or local health department; parents will be informed via the school's automated notification system (One Call Now), by e-mail, and by letter sent home from the school administrator and the school board. Our cleaning company will use an EPA approved disinfectant with a 4-minute wet kill for COVID-19 and many other viruses/germs.

Remote Teaching During Closure

Our teachers will be prepared to continue to teach their full curriculum remotely. Upon closure, teachers will instruct their students to take all necessary schoolbooks home with them, and supply students who may not have a computer at home with a Chromebook. The four core subjects; Mathematics, History, English Language Arts, and Science will be taught as well as Bible class. Spanish classes will only be taught for grades 4th - 8th. The classroom teacher will inform the parents on how to submit tests and projects for grading.

School Dismissal Procedures

Parent pick-up

In order to alleviate the gathering of parents, pick-up of students will begin a half hour earlier 2:30pm instead of 3:00pm. Students will be waiting in the gym area, properly social distancing, wearing face masks and adhering to the CDC guidelines. Signing out of students will be done by the assigned teacher electronically. Parents will only be allowed to enter the area for pick-up one at a time. All parents must wear masks at pick-up and hand sanitizer will be made available for their use.

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Bus Dismissal

Once the pickup of students by parents is finished, the bus dismissal will begin. Students will report to the gym escorted by the teacher assigned to that bus. The staggering of bus lines during dismissal will ensure proper social distancing. Teachers and students will be required to wear a face mask and practice social distancing (remaining six-feet apart) while traveling to the gym area.

After-Care Program

Students participating in the After-Care Program will be picked up from their classroom by the program director. They will then be escorted by a teacher to the aftercare classroom where they will be practicing social distancing. PPE usage, cleaning and disinfecting requirements will be implemented. Parents must provide the school with a pick-up time between the hours of 3:30pm - 5:45pm, so that the student will be completely packed, and ready to go when the parent arrives. Sign out will be done electronically by the teacher.

After-Care Program students will be able to play independently with their own outdoor equipment or they can choose to use their electronic devices, if desired. All snacks served will be individually pre-packaged.

Touch Free Hand Sanitizer Stations

An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 75% alcohol will be available for areas where handwashing facilities are not available or practical. All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer bottles by the classroom entrance.

Emphasize the Washing of Hands

The washing of hands is essential for all students, teachers, and staff members. The school nurse will visit every classroom for the purpose of training students, as well as faculty, and staff on proper hand and respiratory hygiene. Information will also be provided to parents/guardians on ways to reinforce this at home.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wearing of facemasks is required for all students, teachers, staff members, parents, and anyone visiting the school building. Facemasks must be worn when entering/exiting classrooms or student centers, walking in hallways, and traveling around the school building.

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) continued

Any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate distancing, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings.

Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering, including students where such covering would impair their physical health or mental health are not subject to the required use of a face covering.

Social Distancing

School staff will ensure that appropriate social distancing is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds, inclusive of students, faculty, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., instruction, moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household.

Limiting of Outside Visitors in the School Building

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, we will not be asking parents to volunteer for lunch duty or any other school function. This is in order to help protect against the spread of COVID-19. Once the COVID-19 Health Emergency is lifted we will resume parent participation.

All deliveries to the school building will be left in the reception area located in the main lobby, this will eliminate the person to person spread of the virus.

Water Systems

All drinking fountains in the school building will be covered and not available for use. Students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Cleaning/Disinfecting Protocols

Clorox wipes will be used to wipe down students' desks and chairs throughout the day and at the end of the school day.

Our cleaning company, Vanguard, uses an EPA approved disinfectant with a 4-minute wet kill for COVID-19 and many other viruses/germs. This treatment will be done at the end of the school day and is 100% safe for kids, staff, patrons to touch, and it is even safe on food prep surfaces.

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Pupil Personnel Services (PPS)

Our Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) staff will consist of our school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse and on-site Pastor. Our team of professionals will be available to assess, consult, and address all crisis responses with parents/guardians. Furthermore, our PPS staff will assist with professional development for faculty and staff concerning crisis response. Working together, this group of professionals can help promote a positive school climate.

Transportation

As per all districts providing transportation to Cornerstone Christian School, they report the following.

Vehicles

Each vehicle will be cleaned daily. All high contact areas will be disinfected after the AM and again during the daily cleaning.

Each vehicle will receive a biweekly disinfection using electrostatic technology.

Vehicle capacity will be limited based on the size of the vehicle. Passenger spacing per CDC and SED guidelines will be updated as regulations change.

When outside temperature is above 45 degrees, the windows and roof hatches will be vented to provide circulation in the bus.

School Bus Safety

Parents/guardians will be required to ensure their child/children are not experiencing any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and do not have a fever of 100.0 degrees or more prior to boarding the bus.

Floor decals and tape will be placed to indicate where students should sit and to mark 6 foot distances in the aisles.

Attendance will be taken on the bus, where possible, to assist with contact tracing when necessary.

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School Bus Safety continued

All buses and vehicles will be inspected daily for cleanliness and safety, with special attention to high contact spots.

High contact spots must be wiped down after the AM and PM run depending upon the disinfection schedule.

Students who are able, will be required to wear a mask and social distance on the bus.

Students who do not have a mask must not be denied transportation and must be provided with one.

School Lunch

School lunch will be prepared at the local school district cafeteria and delivered to our school daily. All school lunch will be individually pre-packaged. Students will be asked to wash their hands before receiving their lunch and entering the eating area. They will also be asked to wash hands on exiting the eating area. Students will only be allowed to sit with their class. Lunchroom tables will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next group of students' arrival for meals.

Physical Education Classes

Instead of regular Physical Education (PE) class teachers will be escorting their students on a nature walk within the school grounds. During inclement weather students may walk around the gym while social distancing. Walking will allow the students to receive their daily exercise. Stretching exercises can also be conducted by the teacher.

Recess

Recess will be a combination of stretching exercises, table board games, or arts and crafts. All board games and art supplies will be disinfected after use.

Music Class

Music Class is canceled until further notice.

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Closing Remarks

In preparing the guidelines for the reopening of Cornerstone Christian School, we adhered to the guidelines supplied by the CDC, the local Department of Health, Governor Cuomo, the NYSED, our local district's bus transportation departments and East Ramapo Food Services.

These guidelines are subject to change upon updates provided by the CDC, the local Department of Health, Governor Cuomo, and/or the NYSED.

Submitted by:

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July 31, 2020