



**June 17, 2020**

### **Covid-19 School Plan for Fall 2020**

As you are aware, Covid-19 has altered many processes of our day-to-day life. We have been asked to have a plan for the various scenarios of coming back to school in August. If we are in the Green (no risk), we go back to school as usual; just like we start every other school year- no social distancing, we can hold morning greeting and assemblies, etc. (this is the best case scenario, but very unlikely to occur this Fall). Since we're familiar with that, I won't go in to more details about what that looks like. We experienced Orange (moderate risk) and Red (high risk) for the last two months of the school year, so, hopefully, we don't need to do that again, but we are familiar with what that looks like in terms of e-learning, etc. The plan that we haven't experienced, that I will outline here, is the most likely scenario for the fall: how will school look if we are in the Yellow (low risk) phase.

A Yellow open for the school year would be the trickiest to navigate, because it means that we *can* have students at school for learning, but we will need to have additional safety precautions in place. Also, there will be some that potentially *can't* have students here due to immunocompromised and higher risk populations at their home. To accommodate all of our families, we are making preparations so that everyone can be here and can feel that they are safe, and that those that *cannot* be here, don't have to be, but can still access the TECS learning environment from home. Though we DO NOT recommend it, if there is a real need, we are able to work with you in getting home learning set up. We have seen that there are significant drawbacks to students learning from the home environment and that despite our combined parent-school efforts, students were faced with significant challenges in facilitating their learning at the high level we are accustomed to at TECS. We ask those families who feel there is a real need to keep their students at home to access their learning, even when we are open at school, to contact me (Principal Smith) during the summer so we can make those arrangements before we come back to school in August.

Opening in the Yellow, we will have the following guidelines and precautions to see that student safety is our priority:

- To date, the best prevention of the spread of Covid-19 (or any other illness) is proper hygiene and sanitization. We will have hand sanitizer at each student desk. Sanitization of desks, chairs, doorknobs, etc. will occur regularly. Please do not send students to school when they have symptoms of any illness (i.e. fever, runny nose/sneezing, coughing, diarrhea, etc.).
- Morning Greeting and Assemblies will not be in the gym. We will broadcast from the front office to the classrooms. Students will report directly to their classroom when they arrive at school. Hallway pass times will be kept to a minimum.
- Students will rotate days eating in the gym vs. eating in their classroom. We will stagger the time so that no more than one grade level is in the gym at a time. Each grade level should expect to eat in their classroom every other day.

- Recess will be held, but classes will be assigned an area on the playground for the day and will rotate assigned areas each day so they can take turns on different playground equipment.
- Transitions in the halls will be directional and dividers will be in place to reduce interactions and increase distancing.
- Students will be assigned a Chromebook and will be responsible for its daily care and cleaning. This will eliminate the transfer of school equipment between multiple students daily.
- In the classroom, students will be spread 6 feet apart where possible, will have a mask, or will be in a make-shift plexiglass (or equivalent) cubicle when social distancing is not possible.
- During transitions in the halls and at recess, students will be asked to wear a mask.
- We ask that each student have a reusable mask with them as well as their own hand sanitizer container. We will have some TECS logoed masks available at our school clothing store in the fall for a charge, or some that have been donated and are free of charge. If you do provide your own, please make sure they are a solid color and have no pattern on them. We will also provide sanitizer for refill and usage in classrooms.

These plans may change based on guidance from our local and state health departments as the school year draws closer.

## Housekeeping

Please review with your student(s) the student handbook and the need to keep toys, phones, and other electronics or games at home. Each year we are to certify that parents and students have accessed and reviewed our Bully Prevention, Acceptable Computer Use, and Attendance policies. To do so, we refer you to our website, or you may obtain a copy from the front office. Summer is a good time to do that with your students. Each year we try to make a few tweaks over the summer by asking parents to attend to changes with their students. One recent advancement has been the increase in technology that has made internet accessible on watches, bracelets, or other items that students are now wearing. These can create a very real distraction for others and the appropriate usage is not something we can monitor. We thank you for talking with students about the appropriate use of those items and, when possible, we ask that you contact your students through the school's front office to eliminate the need for students to have devices on them at all times. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to come talk to me about them.

We continue our focus on school attendance as absences and tardies impede student growth. This year, we had to include in our year-end report that 10% of our students fell into the classification of "truant/chronically absent" due to the amount of school they missed or were tardy for (10% of the school year is the threshold). Another 20% did not meet the state benchmark of 95% for attendance. We hope those families will reconcile those issues and find ways to promote healthier attendance habits in their children. We also are grateful to the 70% of our families that have made attendance and punctuality a priority in their family.

Another classroom impediment to learning are dress code violations. At the heart of the dress code is to create unity at our school, eliminate distractions from learning, and avoid creating social distinctions due to name brands, fads and styles, or wearing clothing that is tattered and otherwise looks shabby. We want our school culture to be one of inclusion, high integrity, and positivity.

Our goal is to have a caring, yet highly productive learning environment where all feel equal and respected. Cliques and labels should not exist in our school environment. To achieve this, we all need to know the expectations, follow them, and promote a focus on enjoying the learning process.