



COVENANT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2020-21 COVID-19 Plan



901 CHEEK SPARGER, COLLEYVILLE TX 76034
covenantchristian.net



OUR GOAL

Simply put, we intend to provide the fullest experience of the Covenant Christian, classical, college preparatory education.

Core subjects of Bible, math, science, history, English, foreign language, fine arts, and physical education will be taught in person with maximum educational, exhibitive, and performance results.

OUR COMMITMENT TO FAMILIES

We are Christians, education is our mission, and we live in community with one another.

1. Conduct school as normally as possible, providing students and families with the full experience and benefits of a Covenant education, including athletics, fine arts, and community events.
2. Practically minimize the risk of an outbreak of infection on our campus.
3. Do what is possible to protect students and families whose health situations make them especially vulnerable to infection and disease.
4. Provide students and families with the ability to stay on top of daily learning if they need to stay home temporarily.
5. Covenant together to reduce the possibility that a small oversight puts our entire operation at risk, sending us into distance learning.





OUR PROCESS

We assembled a group of physicians connected to Covenant who work every day to treat COVID-19 patients, from pediatrics to elderly folks, in clinical and hospital settings. They have daily up-to-date information on virus research and statistics in Tarrant County, and they have proved invaluable as sources of information and perspective. We cannot thank them enough for their service over the past several months.

In addition, we began the conversations about the 2020-21 school year almost as soon as we were shut down in March. Our "COVENANT @HOME" plan is designed for the occasional, temporary absence of students to a family's due diligence or an illness.

**OUR TEACHERS ARE
TRAINED AND READY!**

We have selected Google Classroom as the platform used throughout Covenant. Our teachers have all been trained by a Certified Google Classroom Educator and are following consistent processes and protocols to provide efficiency and clarity.

In addition, all faculty and staff have been thoroughly trained in all of our cleaning procedures to ensure safety for your students.





BEST PRACTICES

Medical experts consistently reiterate that the two most important things we can do to curb virus transmission are hand washing/sanitizing and masking.

HAND WASHING & SANITIZING

We have installed touch-free hand sanitizing stations at the entrance to every building, classroom, cafeteria, gym, and office area. Students, staff, and teachers will sanitize their hands every time they enter one of these spaces. In addition to our scheduled enhanced daily cleaning and sanitizing, the surfaces in each classroom, cafeteria, and gym will be wiped down with bleach or alcohol based sanitizer before new groups of students arrive for activities.

We also have received federal funding for an additional custodian whose daily job will be to wipe down surfaces such as doorknobs, kitchen surfaces, restrooms, and teacher work rooms during the school day. The funding also includes our ability to provide hospital grade anti-viral fogging on request.



MASKS

A mask is a visible way to say, “I love you” to someone whose health interest I am putting ahead of my own comfort or convenience. For a student, it says to their teacher, older and maybe less physically resilient, “I want to help you stay healthy!” Student to student, masks are a way to agree that keeping school open and operating normally is WAY better than the alternative. It might sound a little corny, but we will talk about masks in the language of loving our neighbor. Masks are not a threat.

Masks are a source of comfort and encouragement. And we will wear them this year. Not all day or even much of the day, but masks will be part of the Covenant uniform—as important as shoes or shirts. So, when will teachers, staff, and students wear masks? *(See the chart on the next page)*



Students may wear their masks when not required, including out of doors, and teachers have the option of teaching with masks or not, depending on their level of comfort, their proximity to students’ faces, or the nature of the learning activity. If teachers prefer wearing clear face shields, they have been assured that CCA will provide them.

All students will be issued two CCA logo cloth masks, and lost or damaged masks can be replaced throughout the year at Ivy School Uniform.

Logic and Rhetoric students (grades 5-12) must have their CCA issued masks around their necks each morning and wear them when required. To reiterate: masks are part of the uniform.

However, Pre-Grammar and Grammar parents may select a mask that is most comfortable for their children. If not using the CCA issued mask (*we ordered plenty of child sizes*), we recommend that parents purchase or make a cloth mask that fastens or stretches around the head and neck so it can be easily pulled up and down. It will be less likely to be misplaced or confused with someone else’s mask.

Activity	Pre-K, K, 1 st Grade	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Grades	Logic School (5-8)	Rhetoric School (9-12)
Arriving and Walking Into School	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walking In Hallways	✓	✓	✓	✓
In Restrooms	(restrooms are in the classrooms)	✓	✓	✓
In Locker Rooms	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
In Regular Classrooms				
During Chapel		✓	✓	✓
During Enrichment Classes	✓	✓		
During PE				
During Recess				
In the Garden				
In Line for Hot Lunch	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dismissal from School	✓	✓	5/6 TBD	



PARENTS & VISITORS

One of the hallmarks of the CCA experience is that parents are welcome to visit, have lunch with their children, sit in on classes, and participate in any number of regular activities.

For the first few weeks of school, however, we are asking that parents and other visitors not come onto campus during the regular school day, unless they are working as a trained hot lunch server. Much training and orientation will need to be accomplished with students, and the more regular the daily environment, the easier this will be for students and teachers. Parents will receive specific instructions from the school heads regarding birthdays and other celebrations as we get further into the school year.

WATER FOUNTAINS & DRINKING WATER

For obvious reasons, water fountains have been turned off. Please send students to school each day with a filled water bottle. Bottles can be re-filled in sinks during the day if needed. (Bottle fillers are available in Nissi, Redeemer, and the Weight Room.



Parent Questions and Answers

If our family is at significant medical risk from Covid-19, what are our teaching and learning options?

COVENANT at HOME is in place and ready to go. For families who are at serious immuno-risk in their homes (e.g., chronic respiratory illness, chemotherapy, diabetes, or other life-threatening illnesses), we are offering long-term **COVENANT at HOME** solutions.

Please see the academic planning document we sent earlier, and contact your school's head—Mrs. Ballesteros for Pre-Grammar and Grammar, Mrs. Cook for Logic, Mr. Johnson for Rhetoric — to discuss the pros and cons and what will be required of families who opt for **COVENANT at HOME**.

If our family would like to “wait and see” in the first few weeks of school, can we start with **COVENANT at HOME?**

We recommend that students whose absence from school is not based on a known health situation (e.g., a Covid infection at home or someone at home with a serious underlying health condition), begin school on August 12. We will not force families to start on campus, but we believe that it is in the best interest of a vast majority of our students.

Students who are not on campus on August 12 will not enjoy the first week of school, getting to know their classmates and teachers. They will also not be able to receive training in Google Classroom in person, which could complicate the use of **COVENANT at HOME**.

The rhythms and patterns of the school day are very important, and Logic and Rhetoric students who start school online will not have the benefit of experiencing the pattern of their day, even though they will be required to follow their daily class schedule.

We also want to reiterate the importance of social interaction as a fundamental component of the Covenant learning experience. The Centers for Disease Control and various pediatric medical associations have recommended that students resume school in person as soon as possible for their psychological benefit.

How long may we use COVENANT at HOME as a learning option?

We designed COVENANT at HOME as a temporary program to accommodate occasional absences from school due to quarantine situations. See our plan from earlier this month.

That said, in certain situations (especially health risks and conditioned referenced above), the program can be sustainable for an entire year, if necessary.

However, a student's success in indefinitely attending CCA through COVENANT at HOME will depend entirely on his or her family's ability to maintain a school-dictated, structured, daily environment at home.

Students in grades 5-12 who are utilizing COVENANT at HOME, unless they are indisposed from sickness, will be expected to attend class via Google Meet all day, every day, according to their regular class schedule. Exceptions will not be made, and grades will be given. For Rhetoric School students, those grades will translate to transcripts.

Given that transmissibility of the coronavirus among children appears to be low, why should masks be required at all during the school day?

First, we don't know for sure how the virus is transmitted between children or how likely children are to infect adults. The signs so far are good, but the available studies have been inconclusive.

Second, wearing masks in common areas and when students are moving about the campus allows us to know who has been in close contact (fifteen minutes or more without social distancing or face covering) with whom, should we have a case of infection. This will significantly improve our ability to pinpoint who needs to be notified and which groups of students, if any, might need to stay home to monitor symptoms.

Third, we are following the guidance of CDC and TEA as closely as possible, and mask wearing in common areas is one of the consistent protocols recommended.

Given that the CDC and state health authorities recommend masks when social distancing is not possible, why would masks NOT be required in Covenant classrooms?

For the benefit of the teaching and learning environment, students will not be required to wear masks when they are seated at desks and not moving around the classroom. TEA guidelines (which we are not subject to, but which we are using as a reasonable reference point) recommend that classrooms be wiped down regularly and that students sanitize their hands frequently. We will do both of those things.

We have also spread desks out in classrooms, so students will be more distanced than normal, and more activities will be done at desks rather than in pods or on the floor.

Teachers will also be trained to ask students to pull their masks up if they are engaged in face-to-face collaborative tasks (e.g., a lab or a group project) or moving around the classroom.

And, again, we will know who has been in close contact with whom and in what classrooms, should an infection occur.

And, finally, students may wear a mask anytime they like.

Is Covenant subject to the same guidelines from TEA as public schools will be when they open?

The short answer is “No.” However, TEA has provided useful guidance which has been helpful to our planning.

Will there be more specific guidance for parents regarding daily health screening procedures?

Yes. In summary, we are relying on parents to conduct daily health screenings at home and to notify the school if a student shows symptoms, especially a fever above 100.0 degrees. Students will not be permitted to attend school with a fever or until they have been fever-free, without fever-suppressing medication, for 72 hours, per CDC and TEA guidelines unless there is a doctor’s note giving an alternate diagnosis

Based on numerous recommendations from health professionals, including Cooks Children's Hospital, Covenant will not conduct daily temperature screening. However, students who are returning to school from an illness or from quarantine will be temperature screened before being admitted to school.

What happens if a teacher, staff person, student, or family member tests positive for Covid-19?

The affected person will be required to stay home for ten days from the first symptom and must be fever free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication. Those who had close contact with them at school will be notified to monitor for symptoms and to stay home if any symptoms appear.

If a staff person or student presents symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated by our medical staff until they can be retrieved by a parent or can leave campus on their own.

The areas where they spent time will be cleaned thoroughly with hospital grade disinfectant before others are allowed to return to that area.

Are other private schools like Covenant planning to re-open before public schools, and do private schools have reliable resources to reference as these plans are made?

Yes. We are in good company. In addition to government agencies, the Texas Private School Association has collected a wide variety of resources for private school leaders, and their staff has participated in the Governor's Re-opening Task Force from the very beginning.

Can a student participate in co-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts if he/she is not attending classes on campus but utilizing COVENANT at HOME?

Yes!

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