



Southside Christian School Reopening Plans 2020-2021 (Updated 10/23/20)

OUR MISSION

While our circumstances may look different in the 2020-2021 school year, our mission remains the same.

We are a Christ-centered school that partners with families to provide a rigorous academic experience in a nurturing environment, equipping each student to embrace God's unique plan for life.

SUMMER 2020, The Backstory

Dear Southside Families,

To fully understand the hard decisions that have been made, it is important for us to share with you the backstory. Here is an abbreviated journey of the administrative team's summer planning that led us to the decision to start our school year with distance learning.

When the OSPI (Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction) regulations were released in June 2020, we were relieved to realize that by implementing the requirements outlined in "Reopening Washington Schools 2020" (<https://bit.ly/2O0lsoa>), we could offer our regular, 5 days per week school schedule for all families on our campus. We sent a survey to our families to gauge their comfort level for returning to campus with the new regulations in place. We worked hard over the summer to make sure we were ready to welcome students back to campus in September under these new regulations. Even with these regulations in place, we were also told in various state, regional, WFIS (Washington Federation of Independent Schools), and ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) meetings to be prepared for

another closure during flu season. This plan reflected our effort to create a consistent education for all of our students. God's hand has clearly been in every phase of this as we have navigated waters never seen before in education.

Instead of school closures being mandated by Governor Inslee for the entire state, school leaders have been asked to look to their local health district for recommendations for reopening school in the fall. School leaders were also asked by the governor and OSPI to follow the recommendations given by the health districts. On August 3, 2020, all private and public school leaders in Spokane County received a letter from Dr. Lutz from the SRHD (Spokane Regional Health District) that informed us that due to the high transmission rate in Spokane County, it was **strongly recommended** that all schools begin the year in remote learning. Dr. Lutz also informed school leaders that he could make this recommendation a mandate if necessary.

We were heartbroken and torn. This felt like a no-win situation with the many different viewpoints of this virus in our school community. When this new recommendation was released, the next several days were spent in prayer and various meetings with staff, Southside's executive board, and our administrative team.

As we wrestled with how to proceed, new guidance and information about our state and community's COVID-19 response became available. On August 5th, Governor Inslee released three levels of transmission risk for COVID-19: high, moderate, and low. Each level is based upon the number of new cases, per 100,000 residents over the previous 14 days.

1. **High Risk: 75/100,000/14 days:** When a county is in the high risk category (metric greater than 75), it is the strong recommendation from DOH and OSPI that ALL schools are to have students off campus and use distance learning to continue their education. Hybrid models may be possible during this time.
2. **Moderate Risk: 25 to <75/100,000/14 days:** When we are at a moderate risk level (metric 25-75) students can be back on campus fully or in an increased hybrid model while following OSPI regulations and mandates.
3. **Low Risk: <25/100,000/14 days:** When we are at a low risk level (under 25), students can be back on campus while following OSPI regulations and mandates.

With this new information, Southside Christian School had the responsibility of making a hard choice. We could ignore the recommendation of Dr. Lutz (since it was not yet a mandate) and bring students and staff back to campus even though we now know this is not in the best interest of the health of our community (current Spokane County transmission levels are above 200/100,000/14 days), or we could follow the recommendation and start the school year at a distance while implementing the solid plan we were already prepared for in case of a flu season shut down, but with the risk of upsetting many families.

The decision was not easy to come to, and was not taken lightly. In our executive board meeting on the evening of August 5th, we decided to put kids first and not risk exposing our community. In a regional school leader's meeting with Dr. Lutz on August 5th, he told us, "Opening schools right now when transmission levels are high is an experiment. We don't know what will happen. We are in a case-study experiment on the lives of a wide range of populations: kids, families, teachers." Schools that are opening across the nation, even in communities with lower transmission levels, are already seeing outbreaks in their schools. At Southside Christian School, we do not believe in being part of an experiment during a pandemic. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community comes first.

A week after our announcement of starting the whole school with distance learning, updated guidance was released that encouraged schools to make a plan that allows for younger learners to be on-campus part-time for learning. We worked alongside the SRHD to create a schedule that would allow for our younger learners to attend on-campus learning part-time. We will continue to work with and follow the recommendations of the Spokane Regional Health District for private schools as we navigate through this time. Our health districts have an important job in our nation as they determine what is safe and healthy based on various criteria. As a point of comparison, consider the health rating system used for restaurants in some cities. In cities like Los Angeles, restaurants are required to post their grade from their most recent health inspection on a scale of A-F. Would you eat at a restaurant rated C, D, or F? In Spokane County, the health district is rating our entire county as a C,D, or F when they say that it's unsafe and not recommended for schools to resume face-to-face instruction. At Southside, we believe in offering you a school that would be rated **A** for health and safety by our local health district. We want everything we do at Southside to be above the bar.

We eagerly await the opportunity to welcome all students back to campus during the 2020-21 school year. All of our classrooms are ready for our students with desks that are socially distanced and procedures put in place that follow guidelines set forth by OSPI, DOH, and CDC. Throughout the school year, we will continue to be guided by updates from the Spokane Regional Health District, the State of Washington, OSPI, and the latest research. We plan to have students on campus as much as possible.

We are committed to providing an excellent education for our students while mitigating risk and supporting the health and wellness of everyone in our community. No matter the model in which we are learning, we will continue to prioritize high-quality education with Christ at the center of all we do. For on campus and distance learning, we will focus on the physical, mental, and social health of our students, while providing opportunities for engagement and connections with fellow students and teachers.

Please see the plan outlined below and know that every second of our work this summer was done to honor God and put our kids first, with the desire to model good citizenship in Spokane so that we may shine as a light in our community.

With love and prayer,

The Southside Administrative Team

2020-2021 FLEXIBLE LEARNING MODELS

It is important to us to call the following plans “Flexible Learning Models,” since we are not sure what blend of these to expect this year. However, we know that we can expect a lot of joy, teamwork, and a focus on what we *can* do, rather what we *can’t* do, regardless of the model. We are prepared for distance, on-campus, and live streaming models of teaching and learning. We can expect to have our community together while working through an unprecedented time in history. We can expect to come away with stories, friendships, laughter, tears, and all of the other things that make a community amazing and real. We can expect God to work in ways we can’t imagine. We will get through this time together and we know that this is not the way school will work forever.

At Southside Christian School, we will offer four Flexible Learning Models and be prepared to navigate back and forth among them as necessary.

1. **On-Campus Learning** (when approved and working with the Spokane Regional Health District)
2. **Live-Stream Distance Learning** for 4th-8th grade students (family choice when option 1 is in effect)
3. **Distance Learning** (WA State High Risk Category, unless approved by SRHD for on campus)
4. **Hybrid Learning** is a blend of on campus and distance learning (Most recent approval by the SRHD for Preschool-2nd grade on August 17, 2020).

MODEL #1: ON CAMPUS LEARNING

We understand that the majority of teachers and students (and parents!) want learning to happen at school. By following the OSPI Regulations outlined for Washington schools in the document titled, “Providing a Safe Environment,” we will be able to make this happen at SCS with a full school day/week schedule as allowed by our state and regional health district guidelines and mandates. This may look different throughout the year as we continue to work with the SRHD. Currently, we are able to offer on campus learning for our younger students in Preschool-3rd grade. We are eager to offer maximum on campus learning time for all grades to our Southside families when it is recommended to do so by the Spokane Regional Health District.

PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT ON CAMPUS

- **CLEANING:** All classrooms will be equipped with disinfecting supplies, and the enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place throughout campus. The entire campus will be cleaned and disinfected (with CDC/OSHA approved products) by Southside staff daily. High-touch and high-traffic areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
- **HAND WASHING:** In addition to encouraging regular hand washing, we will provide hand sanitizer in each classroom, office, and other areas as necessary.
- **CLASSROOMS & SOCIAL DISTANCING:** We have measured all classrooms and have arranged desks in a way that ensures proper social distancing between all students and the teacher. Students will be spread out as much as possible during the school day to ensure proper social distancing. We followed this matrix, developed by a prodigy from Caltech, for our calculations. This young man, who we met with in June for guidance, made Forbes! See the article here: <https://bit.ly/2BWhFpt>
- **STAGGERED ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL TIMES:** Students will have an assigned door to enter and exit the building within a set time to avoid exposure to other students not in their grade. The school day will be the same amount of time for each student; however, drop off and pick up times will vary. This list was compiled by looking at our Southside families so that siblings can have similar or close to the same, drop off and pick up times.
- **LIMITED INTERACTIONS:** When we first open on campus learning in September, students will be limited to interactions within their classroom only. This will include recess time. When it is safe to do so, in addition to your child's classmates, students at Southside will be set up in small pods that share a recess schedule. Students will have little or no contact with students from other pods during the school day.
 - Pod 1, Preschool 4 year olds and Barely 5s
 - Pod 2, Kindergarten and First Grade
 - Pod 3, Second and Third Grade
 - Pod 4, Fourth and Fifth Grade
 - Pod 5, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade

- ROTATE TEACHERS: Teachers will rotate to classroom spaces for enrichment classes and subjects. The exception to this will be PE and Music where students will be social distanced outdoors or in our former cafeteria space for these activities. (When in school full day from 8:45-3:15)
- LUNCH: Lunch will be in classrooms or picnic-style outdoors this year.
- VISITORS: We are restricting non-essential visitors. Visitors who must come to campus will follow the health screening and safety protocols required of all students, faculty, and staff.
- PHYSICAL BARRIERS: Plexiglass barriers are being installed in areas where social distancing is not possible, such as the main office and other areas as needed.
- SIGNAGE: Signage will be used throughout the campus to remind our community about wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, and other safety precautions.
- ENTRANCE/DAILY SCREENING: Each day, all students, staff and limited visitors will attest before coming to school that they have reviewed the COVID-19 symptom checklist. If a student's temperature is at or above 100.4 degrees or if any answer is "YES" to the questions on the checklist, they will be asked to stay home. An app or electronic form will be available to attest to passing the screening. When they arrive at school, everyone will have their temperature checked prior to entering the building. The temperature will be recorded and kept secure.
- WELLNESS CHECK: Faculty and staff will periodically conduct student wellness checks throughout the day. If a student appears to be ill, their temperature will be taken; if it is above 100.4, they will be isolated in our Recovery Room and their parents/guardians will be contacted to pick them up.
- HYGIENE: Students are asked to bring their own water bottles and will not share items with other students. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in all classrooms. A personal bottle of hand sanitizer is encouraged for each student to have in their desk.

BRINGING IN THE FUN (Some examples)

- **OUTDOORS OFTEN:** There are several educational experiences that can be brought outdoors. In addition to our regular recesses, outdoor classrooms will happen as often as possible at the Manito Strip (between 29th and Jefferson Elementary) or Manito Park. Permission for this will be part of our back-to-school paperwork. *See OUTDOOR LEARNING, MASK REQUIREMENTS on page 17.
- **THEMES:** Since several of our normal traditions are on hold for this year, teachers will bring some fun theme days into the classroom.

MODEL #2: LIVE-STREAM DISTANCE LEARNING, FAMILY CHOICE FOR WHEN WE ARE ON CAMPUS (4th-8th grade only)

We understand that, for a variety of reasons, some families may choose to keep their students at home this year, even when Southside's doors are open for on campus learning. We are excited to be able to offer live streaming for families not wishing to return to the school building in the grades we know this could be successful. Instruction will be set up so that students at home can live stream. This will look different for all classes. Classes will also be recorded and will be viewable at a time that works for your student. We do recommend that students join the class for live streaming as often as possible to ensure that they are able to ask questions, clarify any confusion, get immediate help from the teacher, etc.

MODEL #3, DISTANCE LEARNING

As a private school, we have many freedoms. We are free to talk about God all the time and include Him in all we do. We are free to allow sex education to be taught at home. We are free to offer assessments that are meaningful and guide us on a regular basis to shape the education of our unique students so they are learning exactly what they need to. However, we are not free to become health officials and ignore the guidance of those who know more than we do about this virus. We will follow health guidelines and mandates for the health of our community as a whole. We will also be free to open as soon as we have clearance for in person learning and we don't need to jump through so many hoops as our public school peers.

This plan is set for the occasion(s) where learning from a distance is a sacrifice we'll make for various reasons, or if school is open and a pod is temporarily closed due to a COVID exposure. Distance learning will be different from what we experienced this spring. This improved model that Southside teachers have been training for includes:

- Multiple live sessions with the teacher(s) each school day (see *Sample Distance Learning Schedule* below). The length of each session time will vary depending on the grade.
- Hands off approach for parents, student learning will happen with the guidance of teachers
- All school work will be completed in session or in a small group or with teachers and support staff between the start of the day and dismissal
- Live instruction, small and large group work, and independent activities
- Specific times scheduled for each subject
- Bible classes
- Virtual chapel each week
- Blended learning and some asynchronous (learning not at same time) instructional models for student support.
- Set times for intervention, support, and connections for parents and/or students to meet with teachers
- Use of Google Classroom as our school-wide Learning Management System
- Chromebooks (laptops) for all students that have preloaded required software for immediate learning per grade and classroom monitoring software
- Intervention support as needed
- Enrichment experiences as supplements (PE, Music etc.)

Sample K-8th Grade Distance Learning Schedule

This schedule may be adapted per grade level for optimal learning.

Time	Session
9:00-10:00	Morning Meeting and Live Session 1*
10:00-10:30	Student Support/Break/Chapel Once a Week
10:30-11:30	Live Session 2*
11:30-12:00	Student Support/SmallGroup/Check-Ins/Break
12:00-1:00	LUNCH/FREE TIME
1:00-2:00	Live Session 3*
2:00-3:00	Optional Enrichments (Asynchronous)

*Live Sessions will be adapted for each grade and will include a variety of the activities mentioned in our distance learning model. This is NOT necessarily screen time that students would experience the whole time. Depending on the grade, attention span, etc. this time will be used differently for each grade level. Brain breaks, stretch/wiggle breaks and similar breaks will be led or encouraged by the teacher to stimulate and encourage the best engaged learning environment possible.

Sample Schedule for In-Person Preschool

Day/Time	Session
<p>Monday/Wednesday</p> <p>Barely 5's Class</p> <p>9 Students Total</p>	<p>Circle time, Lesson of the Day, Stories, Play time, Large/Small Muscle Skill Activities, Recess, Handwriting without Tears, Mat Man (Math and Letters), Science, Art, Chapel and Closing Activity</p> <p>**In addition, teachers will post some things to enjoy virtually at home such as read aloud stories, SeeSaw activities and virtual field trips</p>
<p>Tuesday/Thursday</p> <p>4's Class</p> <p>9 Students Total</p>	<p>Circle time, Lesson of the Day, Stories, Play time, Large/Small Muscle Skill Activities, Recess, Handwriting without Tears, Mat Man (Math and Letters), Science, Art, Chapel and Closing Activity</p> <p>**In addition, teachers will post some things to enjoy virtually at home such as read aloud stories, SeeSaw activities and virtual field trips</p>

DISTANCE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Student Roles and Responsibilities

- Establish daily routines for engaging in the learning process.
- Identify a space at home where you can comfortably learn and study limiting distractions if possible.
- Regularly check SeeSaw (Pre-2nd) or Google Classroom (3rd-8th) for assignments.
- Complete assignments with integrity and academic honesty.
- Communicate with the school when you need assistance. We're here to help!
- Attend live instruction appropriately dressed.
- Have all materials ready to go and with you (book, sharpened pencil, calculator, etc).
- Be ready to learn and participate with your classmates as instructed.
- Keep your video on and computer muted unless instructed differently by the teacher.
- Use your headset or earbuds to ensure that we can hear you for discussions and activities.

Parent/Guardian Learning Coach Roles and Responsibilities

- Establish partnership with classroom teachers to ensure a smooth transition with on-campus and distance learning.
- Establish routines and expectations for learning at home.
- Assist your student in locating a space in the home that is ideal for learning.
- Ensure the Chromebook is charged and can ideally be left in one place where it is always plugged in.
- Provide a comfortable headset or earbuds for your child that has a mic.
- Monitor communication from teachers and school.
- Monitor completion and submission of class assignments daily.
- Attend online trainings for technology implementation and support.

- Contact teachers or administrators for additional needs and support for student learning.

MODEL #4, HYBRID LEARNING

For times when transmission levels are in the High Risk category, we will be able to open school partailly for selected grades unless otherwise directed by the Spokane Regional Health District.

Sample Hybrid Learning Plan

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A on campus	Group B on campus 5	Group A on campus	Group B on campus	Groups A & B Distance Learning, See "K-8th Grade Distance Learning" schedule above.
Groups A & B 1:00-2:00 Distance Learning				

Group A- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

Group B- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

For school weeks with a Monday holiday, Group A will meet on Wednesday and Friday to allow for equal in-school time for both groups.

Preschool Learning Plan

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A on campus from 9:00-3:00	Group B on campus from 9:00-3:00	Group A on campus from 9:00-3:00	Group B on campus n from 9:00-3:00	Groups A & B, No Class, Optional Online Activities

Group A- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

Group B- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

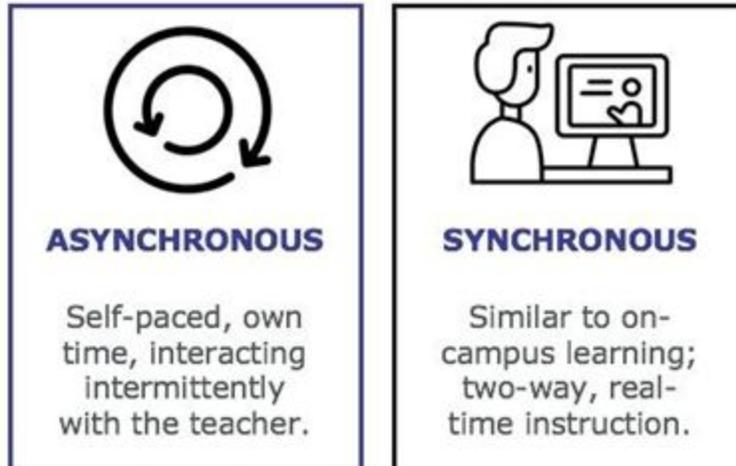
For school weeks with a Monday holiday, Group A will meet on Wednesday and Friday to allow for equal in-school time for both groups.

BEST PRACTICES

For all of the above Flexible Learning Models, the following best practices for pandemic learning will be implemented.

- **FOUNDATIONS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS:** We know that students learn best when they learn from teachers they know are truly invested in them as individuals. Students thrive when they feel safe in their learning environment. All students will participate in relational building activities with their teachers and peers.
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** We have creative ways to keep students engaged in class. This includes everything from ways to answer questions, movement, celebrating learning risks and achievements and so much more.

- **INSTRUCTION:** Asynchronous and Synchronous instruction will be used depending on subject, concepts, and activities.



- **SCREEN MONITORING:** Teachers will have access to software called iBoss that allows them to monitor what students are doing on their chromebooks. This will enable the teacher to help them get them to the appropriate area, see when a student may be struggling, control what tabs the student has open, and also send private messages to the student if needed.
- **SECURITY:** Google Classroom will provide additional security for students to meet safely through Google Meet without fear of “Zoom Bombing” or similar violations from outside parties. Google Meet has been updated and now allows for more teacher control such as muting and not letting students kick each other out.
- **TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT INSTRUCTION:** To provide a better experience for our students, parents, and teachers, we have adopted EdTech Stacks as follows in the grids below. Teachers received forty-plus hours of training on these platforms over the summer. Students and parents will receive training before school starts and through the school year as needed. These are our digital platforms; however, there will be a mix of screen and non-screen activities to provide a balanced system of engagement and learning.

EdTech Stacks

Preschool- Second Grade	Third-Eighth Grade
Google Classroom Seesaw Reading - Raz Kids Online Whiteboard (AWW) Screencastify Math- Eureka ELA- Open Court Online Materials Bible- Deep Roots (First and Second Grade)	Google Classroom Online Whiteboard (AWW) Screencastify Math- Eureka, Math IXL, Dreambox through SVL, (CK12 for 6th-8th as needed) ELA- 3rd Open Court, 4th-8th CommonLit Bible- Deep Roots Typing- Typing.com Science- Digital Purposeful Design (4th-8th) (CK12 6th-8th as needed) HyperDocs Kahoot Flipgrid

- **ORGANIZATION:** We recommend that all students have an organizational tub/bin/area where all supplies are kept. This will ensure that students can be ready to learn with all that they need. This bin should be large enough to hold math manipulatives that we will provide (in a gallon sized bag), mouse, headset, textbooks (if applicable), paper handouts, folders, etc.
- **GRADING:** Traditional grading as per our Parent Handbook will be implemented.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Teachers will take attendance for each live session per day.

- **PARENT ACCESS:** Parents will have access to their student's grades in Jupiter. Grades will be automatically transferred from Google Classroom to Jupiter Education, our main parent communication platform.
- **ASSESSMENT:** Teachers will have additional assessment options to support online assessment.

OUTDOOR LEARNING, MASK REQUIREMENTS

Preschool- No masks are required for outdoor learning.

K-3rd Grade- If students are 6ft socially distanced for activities, no masks are required. If they are in close proximity for activities, masks are required.

4th-5th Grade- Masks required for all activities. Mask breaks offered when students are 6ft apart.

Pre-8th Grade Outdoor Learning Snack/Lunch- Students need to be sitting a minimum of 6ft apart.

CO-CURRICULARS and SOUTHSIDE TRADITIONS

We know how important activities outside the classroom are to the Southside Christian School experience, and we are committed to providing as many meaningful experiences for students as we safely can. We are in the process of reimagining sports, retreats, fundraisers, traditions, and service opportunities for our students.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q- "What will happen if someone who has been on campus tests positive for COVID-19?"

A- With our small classes and pod set up, we will be able to determine those who have come in close contact with someone on campus who has been diagnosed. In accordance with the Spokane Regional Health District, we will contact all individuals who may have been exposed. The class and/or pod and teacher(s) that came in contact with the individual will be considered close contacts and need to be quarantined for 14 days.

We will have a designated space on campus to isolate anyone who becomes sick during the school day until they can be picked up.

Those who are ill will be required to remain home—both staff and students. Because we know that a number of students will stay home throughout the

year, we will be well-equipped for sick students (if they are able) to still attend class remotely and not fall behind.

Q- “Why do we have to do distance learning since Southside is a private school?”

A- We are a state approved and accredited school; however, we do have a choice to make our own decisions about what is best for our school community in some circumstances. Regulations must be followed according to state law, while recommendations are expected to be followed, but not mandated or required by law.

Regulation: If the state sets a law, such as requiring all schools in Washington, public and private, to follow the OSPI regulations outlined in the document titled, “Reopening Washington Schools 2020” ,” all schools that want to open for in-person learning on their campus must comply.

Recommendation: When a recommendation is made, we have a choice. At this time in Washington state, all schools are asked by the governor and OSPI to follow the recommendations made by their local health districts. Our SCS Administrative Team and Executive Board is then responsible to pay attention to the recommendation of the Spokane Regional Health District and then make a decision for our school community. As a leadership team, we have decided to be an **A** rated school when it comes to student health, safety, and academics. We will keep the health and safety of our students and staff at the center of all of our decisions and be good citizens of Spokane County. At this time, Washington state has set the levels of transmission risk of COVID-19 into three levels: High Risk, Moderate Risk, and Low Risk. We will be able to attend school on campus when Spokane Country is at either the moderate or low levels. If we are in the High Risk category, hybrid models may be implemented

Q - “I am concerned about screen time. How much screen time will my child have each day?”

A - We understand that screen time is a concern. This will vary for each grade and will be determined by distance learning stamina of engaged learning, age appropriateness, etc. Our teachers are working hard to provide a learning environment that is engaging but gives students breaks as needed. For example, a kindergarten student and 8th grade student will have live sessions

that look very different from each other. Even though students may be “on screen” with their teacher and class, they aren’t necessarily doing classwork on screen. They may simply be online together in their work and learning, but doing a task that is not on the screen.

Q- “When Southside is able to meet on campus and I need to pick up my student for an appointment, how will this be handled?”

A - We want to limit the number of people who come into our building so that we can provide the safest environment for all of our students and staff. If you need to pick up your student, you will come to our front doors and ring the doorbell. Through the intercom system, you will tell us that you need to pick up your student. Our office staff will then reach out to the classroom to get your student and they will come to the door to meet you. We ask that you please stay outside.

Q- “Are masks required?”

A - As per the various health requirements for reopening schools, all students, staff, and visitors must wear a face mask or shield* while at school. This is a requirement to enter the school building. *According to the Washington State Department of Health, face shields need to have a drape that extends below the chin, to the ears, and should have no gap at the forehead.

The Washington State Department of Health outlines medical exceptions to the above requirement are as follows:

- Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
- Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
- Those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and those who provide instruction to such people, and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
- Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.