

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy

Back-to-School Plan 2021-22

(Safe Return to In-Person Instruction)

It is the goal of the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy administration and Board to conduct school in-person to the extent that this is possible in the 2021-22 school year. Recognizing that many factors contribute to our ability to stay in-person, we are prepared with a back-up plan that ensures continuity of instruction in the case of a building closure.

When school begins on August 30, 2021, we expect to be fully open for in-person instruction. Our Board has supported Administration's recommendation to require masks for all students, staff, and visitors until further notice. This will be evaluated continuously, with the timing of unmasking determined by local infection rate, local hospital ICU numbers, and recommendations by the community health community.

- I. Masking: In this second year of the COVID pandemic, students and staff are familiar with the mask requirement. Teachers and staff are charged with enforcing correct and consistent mask usage. In addition to verbal instruction and reminders, posters will be placed around the campus reminding stakeholders to wear masks and practice good hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- II. Distancing: Where practicable, student seats will be spaced in such a way as to allow for "social distancing." With universal masking, this distance is only three feet, so appropriate spacing will be maintained in all classrooms.
- III. Cleaning: Custodial staff will continue to use hypostatic cleaning techniques in off-hours to ensure that surfaces are disinfected daily. In addition, common surfaces will be wiped down throughout the day. Recently upgraded systems have improved ventilation, as well.
- IV. Tracing and Quarantine: The Academy will follow established protocols for contact tracing, as well as quarantining. This will be done in cooperation with Panhandle Health and the local health care community.
- V. Testing: The school will provide free tests to any student or staff member who is believed to have been exposed or is experiencing symptoms.
- VI. Vaccinations: The Academy does NOT have plans to provide vaccinations, but we do provide our families with information to help them find and receive vaccinations.
- VII. Accommodations: Students with breathing difficulties will be allowed to wear a shield instead of a mask. These shields afford free breathing while still offering some degree of protection. Accommodations for students with other disabilities will be considered on an individual basis.

Continuity of Services:

- I. Academic Needs: The Academy will provide in-person learning to the extent possible. Because we encourage parents to keep students home if there is illness in the household, we will provide online access to all classes for students who miss school. In the event of a closure, we are prepared to deliver online instruction without interruption. Students will be provided with devices if necessary for online instruction.

- II. Social and Emotional Needs: The Academy's counseling staff provides ongoing services to all of our students. In addition, they provide training to our staff in identifying students who may benefit from counseling services. Our school's website includes a "Tip Line," where students can report anonymously if they believe a peer is in crisis.
- III. Staff Emotional Health: The Academy conducts annual staff development days that include our both our own counseling staff and a representative of our insurance broker talking about general wellness and resources. This includes information on services covered and encouraged by our insurance plan.
- IV. Review and Revision: This opening plan and its specifics will be reviewed frequently (at least monthly at the scheduled Board meetings) and amended as necessary to meet the needs of our students, staff, and community.
- V. Assistance: The Academy's plan does not require technical assistance for implementation.

This plan is intended as a "living document," to be reviewed and amended on an ongoing basis to reflect the current health concerns in our community.