

Park Christian School's Re-entry Plan for fall of 2020

Physical Distancing

A paramount goal for PCS goal is to provide our students and families with a safe learning environment. In the case of dealing with COVID-19, as it relates to school safety, PCS wants to make the most logical decisions possible as it relates to student safety and learning. PCS will be practicing cohorting, meaning students will be kept in grade level groups that are as static as possible with limited mixing of student and staff groups to reduce contacts. There will also be an increase in physical distancing especially in large areas and with students of different cohort groups. Student desks will be placed in rows with as much space between them as possible. Use of bathrooms, water bottle filling stations, hallways, and other common areas will be scheduled at different times to limit the number of cohort groups in the same area, when possible.

Maximum Group Size

All classrooms currently being used are large enough to house at least 20 students with adequate physical distancing between each student. PCS will limit the number of students in each space or find alternative spaces (different classrooms, larger areas) when needed to ensure adequate physical distancing.

Face Coverings

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) states that face coverings are a health practice that must be implemented in order to minimize the risks of exposure to COVID-19 when in a school building or riding on school transportation. A paper or disposable mask, cloth face mask, scarf, or bandanna are types of allowable face coverings. Per MDH, a face shield is allowable among students in Kindergarten through grade 8, when wearing a face covering is problematic.

Hand-washing

It has always been a good idea to wash one's hands well and regularly (for at least 20 seconds using soap and water). See the following video from the CDC: <https://youtu.be/eZw4Ga3jg3E>. PCS asks that parents reinforce the need for their child(ren) to do this throughout the day, but especially before eating or after touching one's face (e.g., blowing one's nose).

Hand sanitizer

Park Christian School has several hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the building and classrooms. Students are encouraged to use this whenever it is not possible or practical to wash their hands. However, thorough handwashing with soap and water is still recommended over the use of hand sanitizer.

Staff

All teachers and staff will need to take their temperature and complete a self-assessment questionnaire each day before reporting to work.

Nurse's Office

The nurse's office will be available as needed to support the teachers and students. A designated area will be established for students who have COVID-19 symptoms and need to be quarantined until parents arrive.

COVID-19 Positive Contingency Plan

If a student/teacher tests positive or shows signs of Covid-19, local and state guidelines will be followed. The COVID-19 program coordinator will be in close communication with the individual, family if necessary, and possible infected staff to ensure the safety and health of everyone at the school. Classrooms may need to be moved to other areas while infected areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Attendance Policies

We are asking parents to keep a close eye on the health of their children. We know this will most likely lead to more students that are absent from school this year. We also want to guard against the absence policy being abused. We will be working with each case of absence on an individual basis as we may see circumstances arise that we haven't had to deal with in the past.

We are asking parents to partner with us to make sure our environment is safe and keep your child home if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

We will continue to follow our attendance policy, especially at the junior/senior high level. If a student misses 10 or more days/events in a semester, the student will lose credit for the class unless it is appealed by the student/parent and granted an acceptance of credit.

When calculating absences due to COVID-19, the days a student misses will be counted as an event instead of actual days. So if a student stays home two different times due to possible COVID-19 absences, they would have 2 absences instead of the actual number of days missed. Days missed for other reasons will be counted as actual days.

Facilities:

Sanitization/Cleaning

PCS has started re-opening our facilities this summer by hosting open gyms, weight training classes, and a drama camp. Extra measures have been taken to clean and disinfect areas that have been used by students and adults. Extra cleaning supplies and equipment, along with more hand sanitizing stations around the facility, have also been purchased. Adult guest entering the building will be limited until conditions allow for greater degree of openness. Data supports that COVID-19 is transmitted more among adults than with younger people. Cleaning protocols will be put in place to disinfect equipment and spaces to help ensure daily disinfection.

Bathrooms

Bathrooms will be cleaned on a regular schedule multiple times throughout the day.

Classrooms

Classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized twice a week by the custodial staff. Teachers will disinfect door handles and commonly used surfaces daily. Students will help sanitize their desks daily.

Water Fountains

Drinking fountains will be available as water bottle filling stations only. Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles to use daily.

Gymnasium

The gym equipment will be disinfected daily. Bleachers will be disinfected before and after any game or activity where it is in use.

Commons Area

The commons area will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after lunch daily. If other activities are held in the commons, disinfection will take place after each use. Disinfectant spray and rags will be readily available.

Library

The library will be cleaned and disinfected on the regular cleaning schedule. Returned books will be kept aside for at least three days before being returned to the shelf for check-out. Computer keyboards will be disinfected after each use. Tables will be disinfected after each use and only a limited number of students will be able to check out books at a time.

Activities:

Before School/Drop off

During this time of COVID-19, the preferred drop off method is for parents to use the appropriate drop off lanes for your child and only your child exiting the vehicle. Staff will be available at the doors to welcome your child each day. Students will go right to their classrooms starting at 7:35. All students should enter door #4 unless they need to have their temperature taken. Then they are to enter door #1. Exception: During the first two weeks of school, Kindergarten and new student parents will be allowed to walk their child to the classroom.

After School/Pick up

Elementary and high school students are already dismissed at different times to ensure a limited number of students in the hallway at any one time. Elementary teachers will supervise curbside pickup. Students who ride the bus will be dismissed at the curb to go to their bus. Please continue to follow the current route for pick-up. Physically distancing will be encouraged once outside between different cohort groups.

Transportation

When transporting students to and from school and to different events PCS will try to maintain more physical distancing than normal. Family groups will be seated together and will be assigned certain seats.

Students will not be able to eat or drink on the bus. PCS will follow the guidelines of the MDH as we make further decisions. Face coverings will be worn to meet the MDH guidelines.

Field Trips

To maintain a full educational experience, conducting field trips will be evaluated on an individual basis, taking into consideration location, group sizes and the current COVID status of the area.

Snack Time

Students will continue to have their scheduled snack break in the morning. Students must bring their own food and will not be allowed to share with other students. Designated students will be assigned to go and get milk/juice each day and they will wash their hands before and after they distribute the milk/juice.

Food Service

The food service is catered through Concordia College and food safety as directed by the state of MN is strictly followed. Lunchtimes will be staggered, as much as possible, to limit the number of students in the serving line. Students receiving hot lunch will be given their tray with all food on it, including condiments. Assigned seating will be implemented to maintain cohorts. The tables, microwaves, milk coolers, etc. will also be disinfected thoroughly by a staff member between each lunch period.

Recess

Students getting outside and playing, imagining, and exercising is an important part of the school day. Minimal changes will occur to the recess program as it is primarily outside but play groups will be established to maintain cohorts. Other recess considerations may include specific doors for entering and exiting and assigning specific areas of play if more changes are necessary. If indoor recess is necessary, students will remain in cohorts.

Choir/Band/Music Classes

PCS desires that our students will be able to participate in choir/band/music classes. Currently there is communication with several organizations that are studying the safest ways to have conduct band and choir. If these groups can meet, necessary arrangements will be made to make this safe for our students by social distancing, being outside as much as possible, meeting with smaller groups/ensembles, and/or wearing face coverings. Elementary music classes may be zoomed into their classrooms where students will participate in some music and non-music activities. Choir and band classes may be spaced apart so the fine arts room can be disinfected between each scheduled class. Any music or instruments that are shared will be disinfected between each use.

Chapel

It is a great privilege to meet together for chapel and grow together as the body of Christ. Plans will continue for a weekly 7th-12th grade chapel and bi-week elementary chapel. Worshipping together is a core piece of PCS. For the foreseeable future, chapels will be live streamed into the classrooms to avoid large group gatherings. As restrictions lessen, small groups of students may attend chapel with the ultimate goal of returning to large group gatherings.

Physical Education

When possible, classes will be held outside. With the size of the gym and smaller numbers of students in each class, proper physical distancing can occur for many P.E. activities. Depending upon the activity, students will use assigned equipment and share with the least number of students possible. Equipment will be sanitized after each class. If equipment needs to be shared by the whole group, students will be kept safe by limiting time playing the activity and requiring them to wash hands after class.

For students that need to use the locker rooms, students will be physically spaced out and assigned certain lockers and areas. Students will be assigned a certain locker to keep their clothing and shoes throughout the semester.

Art

Art classes will be held as normal. Students will be physically spaced apart and have their own area to complete their projects. Sharing of supplies will be limited so it is crucial supplies from grade level supply lists be purchased for Art. Tables and workstations will be thoroughly cleaned after each class.

Sports

The PCS athletic department has been following the guidance from the National Federation of Interscholastic Sports as well as the Minnesota High School Activities Association.

Throughout the summer, students have been participating in different athletic programs at the school under the guidance of the MSHSL.

PCS will be following the lead of the MSHSL when considering sports this fall.

Visitors

Because transmission of the virus is higher among adults, we are going to limit the number of visitors we have in the building throughout the day. If visitors are in the building, we ask that they wear a mask and stay in designated areas with their family group. If you are dropping your child off at school we ask that if possible you drop off in the appropriate drop off area and not walk them to their classroom.

Exception: during the first two weeks of school, Kindergarten and new student parents will be allowed to walk their child to the classroom.

Academics:

Normal plan

Unless we are required by law to close our doors, PCS plans to start the 2020-21 school year on-campus and in-person. However, if there are families that require (with medical documentation) their child(ren) to stay at home, accommodation plan will be created to the best of our ability.

Interventional Distance Learning

In a situation where distance learning needs to be implemented in response to a COVID-19 incident, a block schedule of synchronous online instruction consisting of live lessons taught with required attendance will occur. PCS teachers, working from school, if the case permits, will conduct lessons via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and or Seesaw. A schedule will be created before the school year so a seamless transition to interventional distance learning can occur during the few days needed to sanitize the school for a return to onsite learning.