

## **2021-22 School Opening Plan**

August 6, 2021

We look forward with anticipation to the start of the 2021-22 school year! As we start, we first want to recognize how we were able to navigate last year in a strong, positive, and safe way. Amidst the pandemic, PCS held in-person classes from August 31 through May 28, while experiencing the following impact due to COVID-19:

- 25 students tested positive for COVID-19
- 0 teachers tested positive for COVID-19 during the school year
- 0 transmissions from students to teachers or teachers to students
- 5 staff tested positive for COVID-19
- 68 students were quarantined as a result of being identified as a close contact

The tremendous blessing of having our students in school, in-person, cannot be underestimated. We praise God that we were able to partner with you in equipping students to think biblically, live wisely and serve faithfully for 171 consecutive days!

As we anticipate the upcoming school year, our goal remains to provide an excellent, safe environment for students to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. We recognize the importance of continuing to remain vigilant in prevention and care throughout the school year. As we are able to successfully navigate these unprecedented times, we give credit to our strong partnership with your home and your diligence in assessing the health of your child(ren) daily. As we prayerfully plan, we have incorporated feedback from teachers, staff, parents of PCS, community responses and data, recommendations from various health organizations, and our COVID-19 Advisory Team. The school opening plan will continue to be a “living” document and may be adjusted as necessary according to community data regarding COVID-19.

We are committed to returning to school safely, in-person, five days a week with normal start times and operations. As we do so, areas of note include:

### **Daily Wellness checks**

Families, students, staff, and teachers are asked to daily assess their individual health and/or the health of their child(ren) prior to coming to school each day. If you or your child(ren) are not feeling well, or if there are symptoms exhibited, they should remain home until symptom free, following the PCS handbook or the recommendations from health professionals.

### **Handwashing/sanitization**

Best practices in hand washing will continue and unquestionably promotes great health.

### **Face Coverings**

We recognize the recommendations from the CDC and MDH regarding face coverings. We will no longer require mandated face coverings for staff, teachers, students, and visitors, but will support individual and family decision making and choice. Face coverings are still required on public and non-public transportation (per federal guidelines).

## **Physical Distancing**

Distancing will be monitored and adjusted throughout the school year as needed.

## **Vaccines**

Vaccines are readily available for adults and children 12 years old and up. This will remain an individual/family choice. Therefore, PCS will not track and is not requiring vaccinations for students, staff, or visitors/volunteers.

## **Cleaning and maintaining Healthy Facilities**

- HVAC Systems will continue running with monitored air flow/air exchange and filter exchange in the 2021-22 school year.
- Regular scheduled cleaning and sanitization practices will continue to support mitigation of COVID-19.
- Routine cleaning will continue as scheduled when students and teachers are not occupying the space.

## **Health Screening, Quarantine and Isolation**

- Daily wellness checks for students, staff, teachers, and visitors/volunteers are expected. If there are signs of illness or infection individuals should stay home until symptom free, following the PCS handbook or the recommendations from health professionals.
- PCS is mandated and will continue to report any positive cases to MDH (MN Rule 4605.7070).
- Families will be notified if a positive case occurs within an individual classroom. PCS will no longer conduct contact tracing, deferring to health professional quarantine advisement.

## **School activities, programs, and larger group gatherings**

Chapels, concerts and programs will be allowed. Guidance from the MSHSL regarding sporting activities will be implemented as directed.

## **Ongoing coordination & collaboration**

PCS will continue to collaborate with local health officials, school leaders, the MN independent school network, and the COVID-19 Advisory Team in order to make data informed decisions.

We trust in our partnership with your home. We believe that students safely learning in the classroom is essential for the whole child. We will continue to monitor local data and determine adjustments to our opening plan as necessary.

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” -Ephesians 3:20-21*

PCS Administration  
COVID-19 Advisory Team