

2020-2021

Preschool-8

Reassembling
Bethany Christian
School

Reassemble

Dear Bethany Christian School Families:

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we present this document detailing the ways in which we will reassemble on campus this coming fall. As you are aware, the situation with COVID 19 has been fluid from the start, and the process of developing a plan has been no different since we began planning in May when we communicated to families that we would gather again this upcoming August. We are aware our families have adopted a wide range of strategies of dealing with this world-wide pandemic at home: some have opted to travel this summer and gather openly while others have continued a stay-at-home approach. We are dedicated to creating a safe and healthy environment for students and staff on campus. A variety of resources have been used to determine a safe plan for students, staff and families moving forward. They include everything from the CA State Guidelines for Reopening Schools to recommendations from the CDC, Ventura County Public Health Department, American Academy of Pediatrics, local doctors and health care providers, BCS staff, school board and parents, and consultations with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) who has given us excellent guidance and information through legal counsel and insurance. Finally, we have had the opportunity to share best practices with several local administrators who are leaders of schools similar to ours. This has been especially encouraging and helpful.

Please know that it is our desire to reassemble on campus as normally as possible, while still implementing the necessary health and safety guidelines we have been given. This document shares details of our overarching plan that will continue to develop in the next two months. Some routines will undoubtedly change, but we have confidence that the culture that caused you to choose Bethany in the first place will remain the same. This culture includes loving, exceptional teachers and staff who are looking forward to laying a spiritual foundation and delivering a robust curriculum and program that is best for students. We know, of course, that different regulations could be required in August, and we will follow those mandates accordingly. Our desire is to teach our beloved students face-to-face Monday through Friday during our "normal" hours, with only slight adjustments. (The schedule is included in this document.)

You may be asking yourself why Bethany Christian School is able to reassemble in this way when our local public schools are being forced to split their day in various ways to accommodate students. The short answer is we are different. We are one entity with fewer students enrolled than the average public school with additional space both inside and outside our building to accommodate recommended physical distancing. As we have shared before, we have also been authorized to utilize spaces in our building that have primarily been reserved for church use only. With the support of both the School Board and Elder Leadership Council, the school will be spreading out into these spaces Monday through Friday.

It is important to us that students have the opportunity to learn on campus. One of the latest reports from the American Academy of Pediatrics states, "Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well being and provide our children and adolescents with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits." This journal is one of many medical resources that has helped us in developing our plans.

Our mission remains, and it is with joyful hearts that we continue to innovate and implement ongoing strategies to develop the spiritual, academic, social, emotional, and physical components that make a child whole and safe. We are excited to continue guiding our students spiritually and pointing them to their faith in Jesus Christ, especially during challenging times. The modeling parents and educators provide directly influences our children and how they will respond. We know that Bethany Christian School will impact their development in a positive way. We count it a privilege to work with your students and are looking forward to seeing you Wednesday, August 26!

Thank you for trusting our team.

In Christ,



Tara C. Morrow
Principal
Bethany Christian School

● Daily Schedules

- 7:30-8:45AM - Early Morning Care for PS/Elementary/MS
- 8:15AM-8:30AM – K-8 Grade Drop-off
- 8:30AM-1:30PM – Kindergarten School Day
- 8:30AM-8:45AM - Preschool Drop-Off
- 8:45AM-12:00PM - Preschool Day
 - (Extended Care Options until 5:15pm)
- 12:00PM-12:15PM - Preschool Dismissal
- 1:30PM-1:45PM – Kindergarten Dismissal
 - (Enrichment/Extended Care until 5:15PM)
- 8:30AM-3:00PM – 1-8 Grade School Day
- 3:00PM-3:15PM – 1-8 Grade Dismissal

■ Preschool Information

- Curbside drop off and pick up with digital check in and health screenings. (Parents will stay in cars to minimize campus visitors.)
- Cohorts will remain together in classrooms and on playgrounds with staggered outdoor play times. (Outdoor equipment will be sanitized after each class.)
- Weather-permitting, open windows and doors will allow for circulation of fresh air, H13 Hepa 13 air filter will be used in Room 110.
- Due to considerations for the preschool age group, masks will not be worn by students, however, teachers and aides will have the option to use masks and/or face shields when social distancing is not possible in the classroom.
- Hand-washing will be increased and monitored in classrooms.
- Chapel, music, and story time will take place in the classroom, minimizing movement on campus.
- Field trips will be in class/on campus events.
- Preschool performance format will be changed, allowing creativity in presentation to parents virtually.

★ K-8 Daily Routines

- Students will not be required to wear masks unless physical distancing cannot be achieved, per CDC guidelines.
- Drop-Off: Cars will enter the driveway and proceed around the perimeter of the parking lot to the front grass. BCS Staff will assist K-8 students as they exit cars along the curb in front of the grassy area. (Parents will stay IN CARS.) BCS staff and students will wear masks during this time since physical distancing may not be achieved.
- All students will be temperature/health checked by a BCS employee as they exit their cars. (Parents will wait to exit the parking lot until temperature check is clear.)
- Students will then proceed to a designated outside area (TBD) to meet their class (cohort) before entering the classroom with their teacher.
- Student desks will be physically distanced in each classroom. Therefore, students will not be required to wear masks.
- Students will play outside (weather permitting) during recess, lunch and PE at designated areas with their cohort class. Areas of play will rotate throughout the week.
- Students will be allowed to play on the outdoor play structures and with outdoor equipment which will be sanitized by teachers and aides.
- Classes will split time between eating outside and in classrooms to accommodate physical distancing. All students will play outside (weather permitting) for lunch.
- Frequency of handwashing will be increased and monitored by each class daily.
- Dismissal: Since physical distancing will be most difficult during pick-up at 3:00PM, masks will be worn by all students and staff. Students will be lined up by class on the front grass. Cars will enter the driveway, proceed around the perimeter of the parking lot and will pull all the way forward alongside the grassy areas (same as drop-off). BCS staff will direct traffic. Parents will stay in their vehicles while BCS staff members help students into their cars. (Kindergarten is dismissed separately at 1:30PM, and therefore will NOT be required to wear masks during dismissal. Parents will use the same procedure to pick up kindergarten students, including staying in cars.)

K-8 Classrooms

- All students will be seated physically distanced and facing forward, per CDC protocols.
- When physical distancing can be achieved, masks and/or face shields will not be required. Students who prefer to wear masks long term will be permitted to do so. Student and teacher training will be implemented to encourage students to wear masks without fear of ridicule from fellow students.
- While physically distanced, teachers and aides will have flexibility regarding mask/face shield wearing. Teachers and aides may choose to wear masks/face shields at any time.
- Each student will have individual classroom supplies (pencils, pens, glue, etc.) and very few shared supplies. (Shared supplies will be disinfected before use.)
- All classes will implement enhanced and frequent hand washing protocols throughout the day, including before and after eating, and returning from outside play.
- All classrooms will have hand sanitizer accessible for students and staff.
- Instead of utilizing drinking fountains, students will bring reusable water bottles to replenish at filtered water stations.
- Specialist teachers will instruct students in the classrooms and outside as weather permits.

K-8 Assemblies/Field Trips

- Assemblies will be conducted in smaller groups or will be virtual (live streamed or pre-recorded) and viewed in individual classrooms.
- Field Trips will be virtual until further notice.

K-8 Remote Learning

- In the event that school is required to close campus for an extended period of time, BCS is prepared to return to remote learning.
- Teachers already have a foundation for a smooth transition to online learning if there is a stay-at-home order.
- Teachers have taken their baseline knowledge and have spent time enhancing their online programming through webinars and conferences this summer.
- Several online tools and strategies will be implemented for student learning and achievement in the first few weeks of school which will assist with an easier transition should remote learning be warranted.
- Students in K-3rd grades will have the option to borrow a school iPad as needed.
- Students in 4th-8th grades will take home school-issued Chrome Books.

K-8 After School Athletics and Programs

- The Athletic Director and coaches are continuing to track the TV-CAL (Tri-Valley Christian Athletic League) for updates. We will provide more information once we hear from them.
- After School Programs (Academic Chess, Robotics, etc.) will be on hiatus until further notice.
- Before/After School Extended Care for both Preschool and K-8 will be limited and will require reservations in advance (no drop-ins).

BCS Campus Facilities, Daily Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Additional cleaning protocols and disinfecting of shared surfaces will be implemented throughout the day, especially in high traffic and shared use areas including restrooms, handrails, door handles, light switches, etc.
- Cleaning products all comply with CDC standards.
- Additional staff has been hired to manage increased frequency of cleaning around campus.
- HVAC system has adequate air flow. Filters are changed on a regular basis and will be monitored by the facilities team.
- H13 Hepa 13 air filter will be used in the Library.
- For additional ventilation and air flow, per CDC recommendations, classroom and hallway doors will be kept open as much as possible and as weather permits.
- Additional hand sanitizer stations will be accessible around campus.
- Two additional handwashing stations have been purchased for outside use.

BCS Campus Visitors

- Visitors will be limited and will not be permitted on campus without a previously scheduled appointment.
- Any necessary appointments must be scheduled in advance.
- All visitors will be required to wear a mask and complete a temperature check and health screening form.
- For cases of early release of students, parents will call the front office to request their child to check out. The child will be released to the parent's car once they are visible at the curb from the front office.

BCS Campus Health Protocols

- NOTE: All BCS staff are certified in CPR and First Aid.
- Students or staff exhibiting symptoms of illness are required to stay home. COVID-19 symptoms include: Fever (100.4 or higher), Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea.
- Students and staff will be temperature/health checked each morning as they arrive to campus.
- Any students or staff exhibiting illness during the day will be sent to the front office for further screening.
- A health screening station will be set up in the alcove outside the front office/auditorium.
- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms must go home immediately.
- It will be determined if siblings should go home as well.
- It is highly advised that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms see a medical professional and must self-quarantine for 10 days.
- Any students or staff with COVID-19 symptoms must remain home until they have been fever-free for 72 hours before returning to school, or the family may choose to provide two negative COVID tests taken 24 hours apart to confirm that no virus is detected, or a medical note with an alternative non-COVID diagnosis.
- If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID, Bethany Christian School will notify the Ventura County Health Department to report the case and receive guidance on steps moving forward such as quarantine, contact tracing and possible school closure.
- NOTE: BCS will abide by the HIPAA rules of privacy for all students and staff. In the case of a positive COVID test, necessary parties will be notified that they “may have been exposed” if the situation arises.

NOTE: We realize that some students may not be able to return to campus for health reasons. For these students, BCS offers an Independent Study Program which is overseen by an Educational Facilitator. Contact the school office for details.