

CHS REOPENING PLAN PARENT SURVEY RESPONSES



We had a wonderful response to our Parent Survey from almost 100% of our parents. It appears that the great majority of families will be returning to On Campus instruction. We are happy to be able to provide an Online School option for families who are not yet comfortable sending their students back to campus at this time.

While no plan can perfectly meet the expectations of almost 500 family units and 130 faculty and staff members, this is our best effort to meet the high demand to reopen our campus for school this fall. For those who are interested in an online school option, we have an accredited online school program with opportunity for support and connection with the CHS community.

NOTE *A large number of parent survey questions are answered in the original Reopening School Plan. We have included that plan in an attachment at the end of this document for your convenience. It is still the most helpful source of information.*

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Let us be clear on the difference between

CHS On Campus School, CHS Online School, and Distance Learning.

ON CAMPUS SCHOOL – This refers to students who will attend classes in person following the Safe, Smart School reopening plan.

CHS ONLINE SCHOOL – This is our online school option for families who choose to do “at home” studies rather than return to campus for the first semester. This option (1) allows students to remain enrolled in CHS during their online studies, (2) maintains all grades to their CHS transcript, (3) provides excellent Christian teachers in the online program who teach from a Christian worldview, and (4) provides access to online help and support from the online teachers.

NOTE *This is not at all like the “Distance Learning” program we engaged in last spring. Every day the student will be engaged in classroom instruction in at least 5 subjects, classwork, and homework just like on campus instructions. Assignments, grading, and projects will closely reflect on the campus experience and expectations. Families can expect a solid workday and study in the Online School program.*

DISTANCE LEARNING – This program only applies to On Campus students if the Governor mandates a school closure. CHS Online students will not be affected by a school closure. They will simply continue online learning at home through our CHS online school program. It is our great hope not to return to Distance Learning, and we will only make this move for a designated time period if and when the Governor chooses to close Texas schools.

1. KEY “BACK TO SCHOOL” DATES:

- a. START OF SCHOOL DATES** – The start of school dates have been moved back up for K-12 students. The Preschool/Childcare start date remains the same.

PRESCHOOL/CHILDCARE: Wednesday, August 19

KINDER – 6TH GRADE: Thursday, September 3

7TH – 12TH GRADE: Wednesday, September 2

b. VIRTUAL PARENT ORIENTATION DATES

PRESCHOOL: Monday, August 17, 6:00pm

KINDER – 6TH GRADE: Thursday, August 27, 6:00pm

7TH – 12TH GRADE: Thursday, August 27, 7:15pm

c. SECONDARY VIRTUAL ATHLETICS PARENT/STUDENT MEETING

INTERMEDIATE ATHLETICS: Monday, August 25, 5:00pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS: Tuesday, August 25, 7:00pm

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS: Monday, August 24, 7:00pm

2. WHY DID WE MOVE THE SCHOOL START DAYS?

First, our faculty and staff need ample time to review and implement our Safe, Smart School reopening plan and prepare to have an academically excellent school year with our students. Second, we are creating an all-new online school option which requires an extraordinary amount of work and preparation in order to prepare for a successful launch. Third, we need to add additional days of staff training to improve the Distance Learning program should the Governor mandate a temporary school closure. Finally, ACSI provided legal advice for schools in a hotspot for COVID-19 to consider delaying their start date.

Although in Texas our attorney general has stated that private religious schools are not bound by the directives of local government on this issue, the weight of the challenges to start school while navigating the immense number of changes seemed to make the decision prudent and wise to move the start date. Calendar adjustments were made including adding an additional week at the end of the year.

3. SAFETY, SANITATION & SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a.** The student to teacher ratios will generally be lower than the stated ratios in the policy guide during the 2020 - 2021 school year.
- b.** Arrival times will closely match what we experienced last year. Dismissal times may change slightly. There is a plan on arrival and dismissal to address students not having to be crowded together. We will provide specific times at our virtual parent orientation.
- c.** Classroom seating will be redesigned to maximize the distance between students/students and teachers/students. Students will generally be seated throughout most of the day. This will minimize the amount of exposure for each person with the rest of the student body and faculty. The Texas Education Agency guidelines state that students should be seated at least six feet apart or as far apart as possible in the specific classroom setting.
- d.** A COVID-19 action plan is established to quickly respond, communicate and follow the San Antonio Health Department protocols if a member of the staff or student body were to test positive for COVID-19.

4. MASKS AND FACE SHIELDS

- a. As stated in our Safe, Smart Schools plan, all students will be required to wear masks at arrival, dismissal and in all transition periods moving about the campus. When students are seated at their assigned seat, they may remove their mask. We will arrange the seats as far apart as possible to provide as much social distancing as possible. When students get up to sharpen a pencil or ask a question, they will be asked to wear a mask or face shield. When the teacher moves about the classroom to check work, the students will be asked to put their masks on. When students are engaged in small group work and cannot socially distance, they will be asked to wear a mask. Younger children age 10 and younger, who are not required to wear masks by CDC guidelines, will be required to wear masks when arriving and departing campus and moving about the halls and when in close proximity in small group activities. Of course, they can wear a mask at any time. We think these requests are not overly burdensome. This helps students and teachers take care of themselves and show concern for others.

We believe these face covering guidelines are both practical for the safety of our students and reasonable related to their ability to learn in the classroom throughout the day. They are consistent with the best practices given to us through advice and directions from the CDC, Texas Education Agency and state licensing requirements. Along with the full complement of the 120 action items detailed in the Safe, Smart Schools plan, we will provide a safe, secure learning environment for our students.

- b. Masks or face shields may be worn by any student throughout the day. Many students will find that a face shield is more comfortable.
- c. Students should have a spare mask available. Additional masks will be available for purchase from the area principal.
- d. Masks that are worn by students may be of solid color, or they may have prints, patterns or other decorations. As with Spirit Dress, the images and emblems must reflect the nature of Jesus Christ and be within the dress guidelines of the school. Clear face shields may also be worn by students.
- e. When students are in the classroom, students will be given the freedom to remove their masks in accordance with the guidelines of the Texas Educational Agency and the office of the Governor of Texas.
- f. Hallway movement will be minimized throughout the day by students largely remaining in their main classrooms during the day, with teachers moving from class to class, rather than students. There will be a few classes where movement is unavoidable, and those classrooms will be sanitized between uses. Exposure to the larger student body will be minimized, even in the lunchroom, restrooms, etc. Hallway movement will be minimal, and lockers will not be in use.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. On Campus students who are absent for a COVID-19 related reason (e.g., family is quarantined because of exposure to the virus) will be provided opportunity to make up work according to established school policy. CHS teachers will reach out with support and assistance in helping such students with assignments. They will not transition to CHS Online School as it is not the same curriculum.
- b. CHS will monitor the pandemic's effect and the recommendations of the CDC and Governor's office to make updates as needed.
- c. Our licensed Preschool and after school care will be open in accordance to state licensing guidelines.
- d. Parents will not be coming on campus this fall. Every parent will have easy access to teachers and principals through virtual meetings for any help needed for support. A small number of essential volunteers will be approved on campus following the Safe, Smart Schools protocols.
- e. If a student is out on extended absences for COVID-19 related quarantine, those absences will be excused with support and assistance from teachers in making up the lessons.
- f. Plans are in effect to minimize the use of locker rooms in the athletic programs. Enhanced sanitation protocols will also be in effect.
- g. There will be great efforts to ensure our students have a social life on campus. Young people are relationship driven and need friendships and social activity. We can do this safely.

RESPONSES TO PARENT SURVEY ON THE CHS ONLINE SCHOOL PLAN

1. ONLINE SCHOOL START DATE: CHS Online school students must start classes no later than Monday, August 24th.

2. CHS ONLINE SCHOOL COURSE COMMITMENTS: CHS Online courses are semester long commitments for students in grades 3-12. CHS Online courses are quarterly commitments for students in grades K-2. However, the financial commitment is for the semester. You cannot transition back and forth between the two programs except at those semester or quarterly time frames.

3. TRANSITION BACK TO ON CAMPUS PROGRAM: To transition back to campus in grades K-2, students must complete the quarter with passing grades. To transition back to campus in grades 3-12, students must have completed the semester with passing grades.

4. TRANSITIONING FROM ON CAMPUS TO ONLINE: A student may transition from CHS On Campus to CHS Online School. The student will need to complete the entire semester's work online. Making the move to online instruction will be handled through our Online School Coordinator.

5. ONLINE SCHOOL FACULTY AND CURRICULUM: We have chosen to establish partnerships with the Abeka Video School (for grades K-2nd) and Ignitia Online (for grades 3rd-12th). Each of the two online school partnerships were selected for the way their academic curriculum matches and prepares students to transition back on campus later in the year. We have successfully worked directly or indirectly with both of these online programs in the past. All students will maintain full enrollment status in The Christian School at Castle Hills while in our Online School program.

6. ONLINE SCHOOL TUITION AND FEES: – Tuition and Fees for 3rd to 12th Grade are all inclusive if you own your own technology device. A technology fee will be assessed if you use a school Chromebook. Payments are made through our FACTS payment system with two options: (1) payment in full by semester or (2) monthly payments by automatic draft.

- **Elementary (K-2) Tuition and Fees are to be determined and announced the week of August 3 to parents choosing the online option.**
- **Elementary/Intermediate Tuition and Fees (Grades 3-6) – \$3,250/Semester**
- **Secondary Tuition and Fees (Grades 7-12) – \$3,475/Semester**

School Laptop Device Fee:

(K-6) \$75/Semester

(7-12) \$95/Semester

- Includes laptop and insurance coverage

7. WHY WE HAVE CHOSEN TO USE AN ASYNCHRONOUS (PRE-RECORDED) ONLINE SCHOOL:

We have chosen a pre-recorded on-demand online program which provides families with the most flexibility. Many schools are struggling with the concept of live streaming lessons for several reasons. First, live streaming instruction requires a full 7½ hour day for each student at home with many unproductive breaks in the day and the urgency of being in the exact right place at the right time to get every lesson. Imagine the challenge for parents with multiple children utilizing multiple devices simultaneously. Prerecorded lessons with our Online School allow you to pause when you do not understand a concept and simply rewind to listen to the lesson again. This is a tremendous advantage.

Pre-recorded lessons through our online school can be completed by most children in a five-hour day with the flexibility to pause for family interruptions. This is a significant improvement and advantage over live streaming classes. Students in the CHS Online School have on-demand assistance from teachers during designated hours and the opportunity to schedule tutoring support.

8. CHS ONLINE SCHOOL BENEFITS

Your student will also receive the following benefits from the Castle Hills staff and the school during your online studies:

- a. Reserves your place at the appropriate transition time you select to return to On Campus studies with your grade level class.
- b. Receive guidance counseling support for grades 7-12.
- c. Participate virtually in school chapels and assemblies.
- d. Access to advice and support for online learning from our Online School Coordinator, as well as, regular check-in contacts from On Campus teachers/staff for encouragement and support. We will work together as a school family.
- e. Students enrolled in the CHS Online School will have an equal opportunity for any standardized testing (Terra Nova, PSAT, Career Direct, etc.).
- f. Special Education: There is special education support for Grades 3rd-12th students through the

Ignitia Online Program. Students enrolling in the CHS Online School will not have access to the CHS SOAR Special Education program on campus.

- g. SECONDARY STUDENTS (7-12) enrolled in CHS Online School with at least four core academic classes may participate in extracurricular activities or sports if they meet the required rehearsal or practice guidelines set by the extracurricular organization or the Athletic department. For High School activities and athletics governed by TAPPS, TPSMEA or another organization, those guidelines will be followed. All sports and fine arts (electives) will require in-person participation during the specific season or daily class participation. INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS (5-6) may also participate in team sports as per the same requirements as above for Secondary students. ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS (K-6) Online students will have an opportunity for optional weekly PE, Music, Spanish, and Art class videos for enrichment.
- h. Academic support on-demand assistance from teachers during designated hours, and tutoring is available from the online teacher in the 3rd-12th grade online program.
- i. Transcripts for online students will be maintained by CHS.
- j. All online classes are self-paced, and videos are pre-recorded.
- k. The overall course content is similar for both CHS Online and CHS On Campus programs. CHS Online students may be using different textbooks and scope and sequences as CHS On Campus instruction.
- l. CHS Online will have its own teaching staff with degrees and certifications to instruct in their respective fields. Online classes will not be taught by our On Campus teachers. All classes are taught from a distinctively Christian worldview.
- m. There is no financial aid for the CHS Online School. (Exception: ACE Foundation award recipients from Spring 2020).
- n. Semester Tuition rate includes 5 core classes, including Bible, per semester in the 3rd-12th Grade Online School program. Additional courses are available for an additional fee. All courses for K-2 Online School programs are included in tuition, along with the CHS weekly PE, Music, Spanish, and Art video lessons sent to students from the school.
- o. Registration for the CHS Online School will begin during the week of August 10, 2020.

PARENT SURVEY RESPONSES FOR CHS SCHOOL REOPENING

Thank you again for your valuable responses to the Reopening School Plan Parent Survey. As you can see, your input helped us elevate and improve our plan. One thing you will see, our plan has already been modestly revised. We know our plan will continue to be updated as we take in the ever-improving advice from the CDC, Texas Education Agency and ACSI on how to reopen schools effectively and safely.

For those who choose the CHS Online School, look for more material next week on classes and where to go for more information on this program. Registration and sign-up links will be provided sometime on the week of August 10. If you have prepaid tuition this summer, it will be credited to your online school FACTS account.

In closing, if you have any further questions, email us at:

Online School Questions – chsonline@castlehills.school

On Campus Questions – superintendent@castlehills.school

We are praying for your family and looking forward to a wonderful, Christ-filled year ahead.

Together, the best is still yet to come!

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SUPERINTENDENT



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CASTLEHILLS.SCHOOL

JULY 29, 2020

UPDATED COVID-19 CDC AND TEA GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

1. The time period from the resolution of fever to when that person may return to campus is 1 day.
2. A person may return to campus after 1 negative test.
3. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
4. Face shields are acceptable, but not preferred to cloth masks.
5. The definition of close contact is clarified: a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.