



HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Dear Parents,

It is the intent of HPCA to reopen our school building on September 2nd as long as Philadelphia remains in yellow or green. We will be implementing a hybrid schedule, where students would attend in-person either on Monday and Wednesday (“A” days) or Tuesday and Thursday (“B” days). The remaining days of the week would be utilized for distance learning. In addition to allowing for proper spacing, the small in-person class sizes will help our teachers provide a more personal, individualized learning experience for each child – one major positive from this situation. We will send an email in August with your children’s assigned group and days. Our middle school classes will be relocated to Joy in the City, located across the street on 6th Street, and owned by Spirit and Truth Fellowship. **Families may choose a 100% virtual option if that better fits the needs of their children.** More information about this option can be found at the end of this packet.

We have chosen these options based on input given through the parent surveys and by recommended guidelines from the CDC. We do understand that there is still a risk and have made the following plans in order to lower that risk as much as possible. We plan to follow the recommendations made by the CDC for safe reopening in the following three categories: **prevention, maintaining healthy environments, and maintaining healthy operations.** Details of each category are listed below:

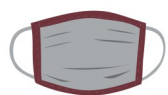
1. **Prevention: Promoting behaviors that reduce spread.** This is considered the number one line of defense.



- a. **Cohorting.** We will prevent the spread of germs by limiting cross-over of students, teachers, and staff. Teachers will rotate between classes, instead of students rotating classrooms. Students from different classes will not interact.

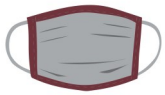


- b. **Hand Hygiene.** Teachers will teach and reinforce good hand hygiene. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at school, before eating, before and after putting on a mask, and after using the restroom. August staff training will include sessions dealing with COVID-19 sanitation.

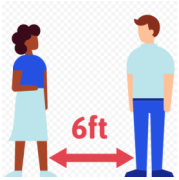


- c. **Face Masks** that cover the nose and mouth will be required when students are entering or exiting the building and classroom and whenever students are not stationary at their desks. HPCA will be providing face shields that students may use when seated at their desks. These will be cleaned by HPCA each night. Medical exemptions will be available for students who have a health condition that prohibits them from wearing a mask. A medical exemption will require a doctor’s note. The student will have the option to only use the face shield or attend virtual





school from home. **Families are expected to provide masks for their children.** Masks can be cloth (2 layers or more) or disposable. Masks cannot contain valves and must have ear loops or ties (no bandanas or neck gaiters). Masks may be colorful or contain designs, but should not have any inappropriate words, phrases, or images. If the school determines that the mask is inappropriate in any way, the student will be given a disposable mask to wear for the day. Parents are responsible to replace it with an appropriate mask. There will be mask breaks during the day.



d. **Maintaining Social Distance.** Desks and classrooms will be rearranged to allow forward facing desks and 6 feet of distance between individual desks. **Signage and floor markings** will be in place to remind students to stay 6 feet apart when lining up or travelling to recess or gym. Dividers will be utilized between desks, in addition to the 6-foot spacing.



e. **Staying home when sick.** Parents are asked to keep students at home if anyone in your household has a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Parents will be required to sign a COVID-19 Safety & Health agreement that will arrive electronically in mid-August.

*We are asking the school community to partner with us to maintain the health of the school by making safe and healthy choices at home and work. **Social distancing is our best defense.***

2. Maintaining healthy environments. We will implement the following strategies to maintain a healthy environment.



a. **Cleaning and Disinfecting.** Both locations will be equipped with steamers and a variety of cleaners to allow for daily disinfecting of classrooms. Routine attention will be given to wiping down high-touch surfaces.



b. **Sharing Objects and/or Food.** Students will maintain their own container of school and art supplies. There will not be shared supplies, so students need to be prepared with their own supplies. Students in all grades will be responsible for bringing their own snack each day. Please note that parents will not be allowed to bring food from home for the class (for birthdays, class parties, etc.).

c. **Ventilation.** Doors to classrooms will be open, as will windows where feasible, to promote good air circulation.



d. **Water Fountains.** Water fountains will not be available for use. Students are asked to bring water bottles to school for use during the day and at lunch.

e. **Physical Barriers and Guides.** We will use plastic barriers between desks in the classroom. Routes will be established for travel throughout the building with the least interaction with other classes.



f. **Communal Spaces.** We will be limiting time spent in communal spaces. We will not be holding assemblies or in-person chapel. Classes will be eating lunch in their classrooms.



g. **Limited Access for Non-School Personnel.** In an effort to lower possible exposure points, parents will not be permitted inside the school buildings. Tuition payments can be made through PayPal or sent with students. We highly recommend check or money order. Any paperwork that parents wish to hand in may be done so electronically or may be given to a child to give to the office. We continue to believe that collaboration between school and home is essential to the growth of students and we will find other ways to promote that connection.



All early dismissals must be to be scheduled ahead of time. No early dismissals will be permitted the last 30 minutes of the day. With our already-limited in-person instruction time, please make every effort to schedule appointments, etc., for times when students are not physically present in school

3. Maintaining healthy operations. We will implement the following strategies to maintain healthy operations.

a. **Extracurricular Activities.** There will not be any off-site school field trips or organized sports teams in 2020. These will be reconsidered for the spring if a vaccine is developed.



b. **Isolating Grades.** Each grade will work independently from all other grades. In middle school, this will mean that teachers will rotate classrooms instead of students. Art and music classes will be taught in homeroom classes. Older classes will not have younger “buddy” classes.



c. **Health Checks.** All students and staff will have their temperature taken daily and will answer screening questions. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home immediately. Parents are asked to keep students at home if anyone in your household has a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.



d. **Quarantining.** If an HPCA student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, their entire class will be moved to virtual school for at least 14 days. If a student or teacher has had close contact, as defined by the CDC, with someone who has COVID-19, they will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days and get tested for COVID-19 before returning to school.

e. **Arrival and Dismissal.** We will work to have staggered arrivals and dismissals for all students. We will have entrances at different locations. More information to come.



- f. **Support Coping Skills.** The school will develop programs for the classroom that will help students with coping skills like: healthy eating, good sleep, and finding ways to discuss how they are feeling. The school counselor and chaplain will be available to help support students with anxiety and depression that may have resulted from the pandemic.

Full-time online option (HPCA At-Home Full Time)

We do recognize that every family's situation is different and that, even with all these safety mechanisms in place, learning from home may be the better option for some. Classrooms will be set up to transmit classes via Zoom. Students will be required to attend class from home at the same time that class is happening at school. Students will be given scheduled days they are to attend—either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. Students learning from home who miss class will be counted as absent; if they are late, they will be marked late. If your family chooses the online option, that decision cannot be changed for the remainder of the term. At the end of the term, the decision can be made to renew the same option or to switch options, if classroom space allows.

Please contact Kevin Deane, principal, at kevind@hpcaphilly.org, as soon as possible if you are interested in this option for your student.

In the event of a state- or city-mandated school closure, we will transition all students to HPCA At-Home Full Time learning, using Zoom as the primary teaching method. The same expectations would then apply to all students for attending class when it is happening during the established class schedule.

Thank You!

We want to thank all the parents for choosing HPCA, for your patience during this process, and for emailing thoughts, ideas, and concerns. More details will follow. And, as we know, we may be forced to change these plans. We trust in the Lord, and we will work toward excellence no matter what our circumstances. Thank you again, and God bless.

Sincerely,

Kevin Deane, Principal, and the Board of HPCA