



Greater Things Christian School

Engaging and Educating the Whole Child: Heart, Mind, and Will

May 26, 2020

Dear GTCS Families and Community,

I am writing this letter to give you an update about our plans for the 2020-2021 school year in light of the Coronavirus. It is a futile task to predict the future and what changes, etc., may be required of organizations in the upcoming weeks. However, based on our knowledge at this point and our experiences with the 2019-2020 school year, we currently have the following plans in place regarding the start of the 2020-2021 school year:

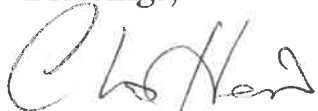
- We plan to return to school as scheduled:
 - Little Warriors Preschool Program restarts on August 3
 - 1st-6th grades begin on August 10
 - Kindergarten will start on August 12 with individual meeting/testing scheduled during the week of August 3-7.
- We will review the current CDC guidelines made between now and the start of school. We will not implement each CDC recommendation, but we will work to implement procedures based on these guidelines when they are appropriate for a school of our size.
- As of the date of this letter, we plan to implement the following guidelines: *
 - We have no plans for a daily temperature check of students to allow entrance; although, we will be placing a heavy emphasis on this with parents regarding not sending students to school with any fever (low or high). We will have temperature checks, as per our usual policy, when students present symptoms of feeling ill.
 - If an optional vaccine is released, our school would not require students to receive the vaccine. This would be a decision between the student's parents and physician.
 - We plan to update parents if a student is diagnosed with COVID-19; however, we would not make the identity/grade of the student public.
 - We will teach proper hand-washing skills to students and require them to wash their hands with soap and water several times throughout the day.
 - We will limit shared supplies and label individual supplies.
 - We will clean desks, counters, tables, and other surfaces throughout the day.

- Students will be permitted (and perhaps encouraged, depending on the situation at the time of school starting) to wear their own masks at school.
- We have no plans to close and move to an online delivery of instruction at the beginning of the school year. The exception for this would be if either (1) the COVID-19 cases rise exponentially in the Dickson County area, or (2) the Governor orders (instead of recommending) all schools closed. If circumstances did require the school to close, we would continue educating students utilizing our Virtual Learning Platform (VLP) that we developed and instituted this spring. Our VLP utilized Zoom and required students to spend a few scheduled hours each day online with their teacher and classmates, both in a large classroom group and in smaller groups. The VLP day included breaks scheduled throughout the day and required students to complete online and paper assignments. Classroom books and materials were delivered to parents utilizing our traditional car pick-up line, and completed assignments were returned in like fashion. Our VLP worked well for the final quarter of the 2019-2020 school year, but it would be more difficult to begin a year in this way. For this reason, if we were required to close, utilizing the VLP would be a last-ditch effort to begin the school year and would—if possible—include some very small group in-person meetings with the teacher. I do not see this transpiring, but even so, we do have this viable contingency plan in place.

*These policies may be updated as more information becomes available or as circumstances affecting our immediate location change. We will update parents of any new policy that we implement.

Our desire is for our students to remain healthy and to experience a normal school year in which they learn, grow in wisdom, and increase in the knowledge of God and good. To that end, we have instituted these policies and procedures. We are continuing to monitor this situation, and we will update parents with any modifications or additions to these policies. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings,



Chris Harris
Principal