



## **Liberty Christian Academy *Together Again*** **Fall Restart Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year**

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In the Spring of 2020 educational settings experienced unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now time to reflect on where we've been while focusing on where we go from here. Our goal is to provide a high quality educational program while adhering to health and safety guidelines.

II Timothy 1:7 states, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind."* As we move forward it is with a sound mind taking into consideration the wisdom of health professionals. We also move forward with the love for our students and families, and the confidence in the power of God to continue to provide and protect as we trust in Him. We want to reassure you that we are planning for the best and safest possible learning environment for your students. Our guidance aligns with that provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Ohio Department of Education and the Licking County Health Department.

We are a private Christian school that is designed to convene in a physical school building. God has richly blessed us with the facilities that we need in order to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

With that being said, our intent is to be in school 5 days a week - Monday - Friday. The first day for 5th-12th grade is Monday, August 24. The first day for PK-4th grade is Tuesday, August 25.

We understand that some LCA families, due to high risk, health or simply uncertain circumstances, prefer learning from home, although still enrolled at LCA. For those few families we are willing to offer a distance learning program as a service, on a short-term basis. But please note, this is not who we are. There are many programs out there that are designed for this and do a very good job of it. We value you and want to help you during these challenging times, but please understand who we are, and have realistic expectations of our staff and our school if you choose the distance learning option.

I wish we could be all things to all people, and make everyone happy, but reality says that we can't. We can and will do our best as unto the Lord. Our plans have to be fluid as information changes daily. There is still much work to do, and we will continue to keep you informed. Thank you for your support and patience, and most of all thank you for your prayers.

# **Liberty Christian Academy *Together Again***

## **Fall Restart Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Updated 8/17/2020

We have two plans for the 2020-2021 school year:

Plan #1: **“ALL IN”** - We are planning to have all students in session in our physical school building Monday - Friday each week according to our school calendar. If a student is out of school for an extended period, teachers can continue to provide instruction to that student through RenWeb and Google Classroom. We are offering a limited distance learning option to some families as a temporary service measure. We have a staff member assigned to coordinate the distance learning format. Please know that if you choose this option for Preschool through 2nd grade, most of the instruction will be done by you as a parent.

Plan #2: **MANDATED “ALL OUT”** - In the Spring we were given the task of converting our program basically over night into a distance learning program. We did everything we could under the circumstances to continue to provide a quality program, but that was unfamiliar territory for all of us. We have learned a lot and if we are mandated due to health restrictions to do it again, we will be more prepared.

Assignments, lesson plans, videos, etc. will be posted to RenWeb. We are incorporating components of successful distance learning formats as part of the regular school day in order for students to be better prepared in the event we are again required to abide by a mandated school closure. The following formats will be part of the regular K-12 school day:

- Google Classroom (3rd -12th grade)
- Zoom
- Loom

### **Athletics:**

This year we are in the probationary year to become a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). As a prospective member LCA is required to abide by the direction of the OHSAA. Our athletic director, coaches, and administration are prepared to implement appropriate or mandated protocols for the safety of our athletes, coaches, and fans.

### **Arrival and Dismissal of Students:**

Parents should remain in their cars during arrival and dismissal times.

Students should go directly to the classroom upon arrival without mingling in the hallways, at lockers or in other common areas.

Students should wash hands or use sanitizer upon arrival at school.

**Bussing Transportation:**

Local school districts providing bussing transportation will dictate policies for transporting students to and from school.

**Chapels/Assemblies:**

Chapels may take place in the gym with seating that abides by the physical distancing requirement. Chapels may also be done virtually and viewed in the classrooms.

**Choir/Band/Drama:**

In order to reduce the potential for contact with shared equipment and spaces, elementary art and music classes will be taught in each classroom rather than in the art and music rooms.

**Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices:**

Daily cleaning and sanitizing will take place with safe disinfectants paying particular attention to high touch surfaces like door handles, desks, etc.

All classrooms and common spaces will have access to cleaning supplies. Classrooms will be disinfected throughout the day as needed.

Restrooms will be cleaned after each class use.

Interior doors will be propped open whenever it is practical to avoid significant touching by multiple people.

**Extended Care (morning and afternoon):**

Students will need to be pre-registered, and capacity will be limited.

Students in the same family may sit together, but others will maintain physical distancing.

It is recommended that students bring their own play things to avoid sharing common items.

**Face Covering** (masking/shielding):

Per the state of Ohio mandate for schools, all faculty and staff will be required to wear a mask or shield during the school day, except when alone in their assigned workspace.

Masks are required for Kindergarten-12th grade students in the classrooms. Families should provide a clean face covering for their students each day. We will have a limited supply of disposable masks available.

LCA is “mask friendly”. Age appropriate instruction will be given to students so that no one is made to feel uncomfortable. Students will be taught to show kindness and respect for the decisions of other people.

**Field Trips:**

Field trips will not be scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year until future notice.

**Food Service and Cafeteria:**

We will continue to provide food service to students and staff on a limited basis. The food service staff will follow all recommended safety precautions regarding food preparation and service offered by the local health department.

It is recommended that students pack lunches. Purchased items may be a “boxed lunch” or pre-packaged items.

Elementary students will eat in their classrooms.

Middle School/High School students may eat in the cafeteria, a classroom, multipurpose gym, common spaces throughout the building, or in the courtyard or outdoor pavilion. Physical distancing will be required.

**Hand Hygiene:**

Students will have regular access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

All classrooms and common spaces will have hand sanitizer stations available.

Students will be expected to wash their hands upon arrival, before and after lunch, before and after recess, and after using the restroom. Instruction and reminders on handwashing will be provided with signs and other methods used to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene.

**Physical/Social Distancing:**

Students will be encouraged to maintain distancing.

Student seating will be placed up to 6’ apart but no less than 3’ apart, and all desks will face the same direction.

The sharing of supplies among students will be avoided. If supplies are shared, they will be sanitized between uses.

Six feet of distancing between adults will be maintained when at all possible. Teachers will use common sense when applying distancing practices between themselves and their students.

**Recess:**

Recess will be outside whenever the weather allows. It is important for students to dress appropriately for the weather conditions.

Students will remain with their classes and not intermingle on the playground area.

Classes will be assigned locations in the playground area and will rotate on a schedule.

Students will be required to wash/sanitize hands before and after recess. Any playground balls/equipment will be sanitized before and after use.

**Screening/Assessments:**

Student health must be assessed by parents or guardians before coming to school each day. A log sheet is provided by the Licking County Health Department. [Symptom Checker Log](#)

All school employees and volunteers must be assessed for symptoms each morning.

A person shall not come to school or remain at school under any circumstances if he/she displays any one of the following:

- A body temperature of 100\* or higher any time in the previous 24 hours.
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Chills
- Loss of taste or smell

Or, any two of the following:

- Body ache
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion

Any person determined by a staff person to meet these criteria during the school day will be immediately sent home or placed in a designated isolation area at school.

It is required that parents make arrangements for the child to be picked up from school within 30 minutes. It is wise to have a family member or friend on standby in case you are not able to get to school quickly.

**Symptoms, Exposure, and Positive Test Protocol for Return to School:**

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their medical provider as soon as possible and follow their provider's advice regarding treatments and testing.

A student or staff person who tests positive for COVID-19 must do the following before returning to school:

- Remain out of school for at least 10 calendar days from the onset of symptoms, and
- Remain fever-free for 72 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, and
- Demonstrate improved respiratory function, and

- Receive clearance to return to school

A student or staff person exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain out of school for 14 calendar days from the date of exposure and cleared before returning to school. Distance learning can continue at home during these days.

“Exposure” is defined as being within 6’ of an infected person for more than 15 minutes. Under this definition an entire classroom would likely not be considered exposed to an infected person. Exposure may be limited only to those in immediate proximity of an infected person.

The school nurse and principal have the authority to determine whether students or staff members have been exposed while at school.

We will communicate with the Licking County Health Department (LCHD) when students or staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 and will fully cooperate with their guidance.

All isolation and quarantine periods will be provided in accordance with CDC recommendations.

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, LCHD will contact the individual and school administration to identify close contacts. LCHD will follow up with all close contacts and provide each with a quarantine order.

**References:**

[Ohio K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance](#)

[Licking County Health Department Guidance.pdf](#)