



Covid-19 Policies and Procedures

During this unprecedented and unpredictable time we have been diligently praying and seeking wisdom and advice from our Advisory Board of educators and professionals along with the leadership team of City Hope Church. We have created an outline for what is best for Hope Academy to open safely, while also being able to maintain our high standards in Christian education. We do ask for grace and understanding during this time as it is new territory for all of us.

We are continuing to monitor the local health trends and staying up to date with Baldwin County Board of Education. We admire and respect the decisions of the local educational leadership and have taken all things into consideration.

We feel that with the plans we have put into place, we will be able to safely open and begin an amazing school year! We will continue to stay up to date and abide by State and Federal laws and mandates.

As such, please note that these topics and our methods to implement them are subject to change before and during the school year. You will be notified of all changes from the Administration via email and/or from your child's teacher.

Students and Faculty

Temperature Screenings:

Temperature checks will take place two times a day for all faculty and students. Once upon arrival and once approximately 4 hours after the school day has begun.

Based on guidelines from the health authorities, anyone displaying a temperature of 100 or above will not be allowed to attend school for 48 hours.

Before you leave home, we ask parents to check your child's temperature as an extra layer of precaution. We ask that parents err on the side of caution when your child has minor symptoms or says "they don't feel good", even if it doesn't seem to be COVID-19 symptoms. We can all do our part by staying home to help protect someone else. Our faculty will be available and willing to assist virtually when those days occur.

Other Illnesses

Due to the uncertainty during this COVID-19 season we have extended our policy to more than just the standard COVID-19 symptoms for the protection of all of our students and faculty.

Please be considerate of the other children and adults and **do not** bring your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms in the past **48 hours** without medication:

- fever over 100 degrees
- excessive coughing and/or a common cold
- diarrhea or vomiting- no matter the cause (including teething, medication, headaches, etc)
- colored mucus (runny nose)
- sore throat
- any unexplained rash or skin infection
- head lice (live egg or nits)
- pink eye or eye infection (mucus or redness of the eye)
- any other communicable disease

A child may return to school with an approved doctor's note if he or she has been on antibiotics and is symptom free without medication for at least **48 hours** and is well enough to participate in all activities. Please remember that your child may be ill and not necessarily have a fever. Other signs to look for illnesses are: decreased appetite, flushed appearance, paleness, or headache.

If your child becomes sick at school you will be called and expected to come pick up your child immediately.

Face Coverings:

The governor has mandated mask/face coverings for the state of Alabama through August 31st, Hope Academy will require mask/face coverings for all faculty and students (1st grade and up). We will continue to monitor this mandate from the governor and will keep you informed of any changes.

No mask will be required during snack time, lunch time, on the playground, and during PE, unless there is an exception for schools.

Teachers will wear face shields so students that need to see a teacher's mouth for educational reasons will be able to do so.

Gaiter or bandana style masks will be allowed. Vent style masks are not allowed.

Social Distancing:

Social Distancing will be enforced to the best of our abilities during class time, lunch waves, and car line times. We will be educating all students on proper social distancing during these times with no hugs, only air high fives, how to properly cover a cough and/or sneeze, etc. Please help with this instruction at home as well.

Plexi-Glass Dividers

Social distancing at students' desks during class time will be aided by the use of plexi-glass dividers. By also requiring additional spacing during academic lesson times, we will be able to help our students to focus on lessons as well as work together with new distancing measures. The front desk will also have a divider.

Visitors/Volunteers

We will limit any non-essential visitors and volunteers. Visitors and volunteers that are permitted on campus will have a temperature check before entering the building and may be asked to wear a mask.

Parents coming to check students in and out will be asked to stay by the front desk, maintaining social distancing, while our staff assist with your child.

Events

We will be reviewing and adjusting our events (such as Grandparent's Day reception, Thanksgiving Feast, etc) throughout the year according to health trends.

Carline

We will separate students 6 feet apart using creative resources to guide the students. Faculty will wear masks while loading and unloading students from the cars.

Field Trips

Virtual field trips will take place in all classes throughout the school year. Off-campus field trips will take place at the availability of educational venues and current health trends. If off-campus field trips are able to take place, we will abide by the safety precautions of the venue we are visiting.

After School Care

After School Care will take place outside if the weather permits. If ASC is held inside, proper social distancing will be in place along with cleaning procedures.

Accounting of Social Contact:

This will assist in student and staffing groups to maintain as static as possible by having the same group of students with the same staff.

Chapel

Weekly chapel services will be held in two different groups (PreK and Elementary) so that social distancing will be maintained.

Playground/Recess

Outdoor recess is used as important opportunities for children to get fresh air, play, exercise and socialize with friends. If the weather permits, we will continue with regular scheduled playground time. The playground times will be limited to the same recurring classes each day with a max of 12 students.

Lunch Room/Food Vendors:

The lunch schedule will be limited to the same recurring classes each day with a max of 23 students. Lunch times will be spaced accordingly to give time for students to have adequate time to eat and for the lunch room to be cleaned before the next group comes.

We do not have a kitchen or cafeteria on campus however, we will continue giving families the opportunity to order daily lunches from specific vendors. We will be working with our vendors on safety precautions for the lunch options provided, such as: boxed or bagged meals for students.

Cleaning Procedures:

All cleaning will take place with products that are on the EPA approved list for disinfecting against novel coronaviruses.

Daily intensive cleaning will take place in all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, lunchroom, etc. Weekly intensive cleaning of all toys. Basic cleaning of toys, tables, door knobs, etc. will take place throughout each day.

Maintaining a Healthy Environment

Additional hand sanitizer stations located throughout the school. All hand sanitizer will be FDA approved.

Additional scheduled hand washing times throughout the day.

Water fountains will be unavailable, however, water bottle refill stations will be available for students to refill their personal water bottle.

Nap mats- (PreK and Kindergarten only) must be fully attached and able to be washed in its entirety. Nap mats will be sent home daily for parents to wash and return.

Only store-bought, individually-wrapped snacks will be allowed in classrooms to celebrate birthdays, holidays, or special occasions. We cannot allow homemade or store-bought cupcakes, cakes, cookies, snacks, etc. to share with the class.

School Closure/Virtual School:

School Closure

While there is always a chance that we will have to close at some point throughout the year due to state or federal mandates, we have every intention to welcome students back to school on August 12th. We feel that with our small class sizes and the precautions we have in place we will be able to keep our students and faculty safe while still creating an educational and Christ-centered atmosphere.

Virtual School

Hope Academy does not have a separate virtual school option. We do have a virtual school plan in place for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade in the event we have to close due to state requirements. This plan will include live stream lessons, Mobymax, and other platforms to properly educate our students.

For PreK students; we will provide a “take home packet” for you to continue educating your child from home. We will take in the fact that education will not be the same at home and we will adjust tuition accordingly.

Academics While a Student is in Quarantine:

The teacher will provide all materials needed for students to complete when they are well enough to do so. The student will receive full credit for all completed work, and will be able to make up quizzes and tests. Live stream class lessons and virtual assistance will be available. Absent days will be excused after the Doctor’s note has been received.

If a Faculty Member or Student Tests Positive For COVID:

-We ask that Hope Academy’s designated point of contact be notified as soon as the positive test results are known.

-We will require quarantine for 10 days after symptom onset and until 48 hours after their fever subsides without the use of fever-reducing medications. They must receive a negative test result before returning.

-Doctor's release/approval must be provided before the faculty member or student may return

-All Hope Academy Faculty will be tested. If a teacher tests positive at any time, an interim teacher will be hired to fill the position until the teacher can return.

-The environments where the faculty member or student has been will be shut down for 48 hrs for proper cleaning.

-If your child has been in contact with the faculty member or the student who tested positive, you will be notified. With social accounting in place we will be able to track students that might have been exposed. This will take additional work but that's the extra we are willing to do to have the opportunity to educate your child and do our best to keep them healthy and safe.

If Faculty or Student has been in direct contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID:

-We ask that Hope Academy administration be notified as soon as the positive test results are known.

-Before returning to school, we will require the faculty member or student to be tested and in quarantine until they are tested and receive a negative test. If a teacher tests positive, an interim teacher will be hired to fill the position until the teacher can return.

**We are not just committed to your child's education but also their health so there will be scenarios that require unique solutions as every scenario will have a unique element to it.*

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact:

A designated faculty member will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All school faculty and families will know who this person is and how to contact them.