

Our Return to School Plan:

We are focusing our efforts to prepare for a Return to School Model where students are in class on their regularly scheduled days with Hybrid Option so families have the flexibility of sending their children to school OR choosing virtual learning, as needed based on comfort levels. Our planning will be guided by the Governor's orders along with best practices from the Diocese and VAIS and feedback we have gained throughout our Task Force process.

All of us need a sense of normal and our kids need it now more than ever; they need routines, socialization and friendships. Even if we have to transition from in school to distance learning at times throughout the year, connection with friends and teachers from class helps reduce anxiety and provides a sense of comfort and routine. Together we can navigate these uncharted waters!

What we will offer you this year no matter our school scenario:

- A family where everyone is supported and loved
- A dedicated staff who put the safety, developmental needs, and best interest of our students and families first
- A commitment to a fun, play based, developmentally appropriate curriculum for our littlest ones
- Flexibility to choose in person or virtual learning scenarios based on your comfort level
- Social connections
- Social emotional learning and growth
- Faith and spiritual fulfillment
- Teaching and learning that meets the individual needs of all of our students
- Small groups with teachers who really know and care about your children
- Parental support

RETURN TO SCHOOL HEALTH/SAFETY/WELL BEING

Facial Coverings:

Will my child be required to wear a mask all day?

- We ask that any students carpooling with other families, please wear a face mask for the duration of the ride both to school and when going home.
- We ask that all parents/caregivers, students, and staff wear masks/facial coverings during drop off and pick up during preschool kiss and ride times and any transitions in the hallways/public spaces. This may include masks or face shields.
- Facial coverings will be worn throughout the school day with safe breaks given, as needed.
- Facial coverings will be required in our preschool classrooms when our students are learning in small groups or a teacher is offering a student some one on one time. We realize that they may need more breaks than older students so we will adapt and adjust as needed for them. We will be able to be flexible as needed- our goal is for our little ones to feel safe and loved. We plan to use out outside space as much as possible for learning and fun where we won't need to be in masks.
- We recommend a (break away) lanyard for your child to be able to attach his/her mask for safekeeping during mask breaks.



Will staff be required to wear a mask?

- All staff in the building will wear masks for the protection of our students and faculty.

What if my child is afraid to see others in a mask?

- Our staff will continue to be the same loving, caring people that you have always known. Preschool staff are planning to wear our smiling faces as pins on our clothing so the students can easily identify us, and we will smile with our eyes and voices in every interaction.
- Prior to the start of school, we will share some videos/pictures that will help support your child with the transition to seeing their teachers wearing masks.

- You can help by talking with your students about the wonderful people that will be teaching and caring for them each day at school.

What if my child refuses to wear a mask or other face covering?

- We have many creative ways to meet the varying needs of our littlest learners. We are going to try to have the preschoolers wear masks or face shields for safety but we also realize that they may need more breaks than older students so we will adapt and adjust as needed for them. We will be able to be flexible as needed just as with all of their various developmental needs. We also plan to be outside as much as possible in outdoor class spaces we are creating where we won't need to be in masks.

What if my child forgets his/her mask?

- LHS will have a limited supply of disposable masks. Please show your child how to identify the front/back side of their mask, and how to put it on and to take it off without touching the inside of the mask. Preschool – 8th grade students can be prepared by having facial coverings they feel comfortable wearing and bring one to school each day.

Health Policies:

Will there be changes to the school's health and safety policies?

- Yes. We will be following the CDC guidelines and recommendations so a health plan will be submitted to the Virginia Council for Private Education and shared with families.
- **It is of the UTMOST importance that parents do their part to keep students home when sick or running a fever and alert faculty and staff of any exposure to communicable diseases. This one precaution can be something that will allow us to remain open! This holds true for any illness, not just COVID-19.**
- If both parents work outside the home, make sure you have a plan in the event that your child can't come to school due to illness. Please, please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick! We will ask all families to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at home and to stay home if there are any indications that a student may be getting sick. We will all need to err on the side of extreme caution in keeping children home who may be ill. Make-up class assignments will be available at the end of each school day for K-8 so students can keep up with classwork if they can't attend school due to an illness. Teachers will work with families to support students with extended absences. Temperatures will be taken at drop off and again mid-day. For those staying for extended day, temperatures will also be taken.
- In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students and staff, we ask that no one enters the school with any of the following: headache, fever/chills, stomach ache, muscle or body aches, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, extreme tiredness, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell, profuse discolored discharge from nose or eyes; constant or severe earache; a contagious rash or a rash that blisters, pusses, or is otherwise uncomfortable.
- A temperature of 100.0 degrees F or greater is considered a fever.
- Students must be symptom-free for 72 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) before returning to school and have a doctor's note.
- We ask parents to notify the School if their child or anyone in the family has tested positive for Covid-19 or been exposed to someone who has tested positive.

What happens if someone in our school community is diagnosed with Covid-19?

We will have a complete protocol in place following the CDC guidelines in the event of any Covid-19 cases in our community.

- LHS will work closely with the Prince William County Health Department to determine the appropriate next steps if there is a COVID-19 diagnosis in the school. The response to an individual case will depend largely on the circumstances surrounding the case and contact(s) the individual had within the school setting. Prince William Health Department will perform the contact tracing.
- If an individual exhibits signs of illness, and in particular symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated and examined by the school health staff and sent home. Individuals sent home will not be allowed to return until cleared by a doctor.

- If a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, local Health Department officials will receive notification and provide guidance to LHS on a case by case basis.
- The location(s) of the individual while on campus will be traced and disinfecting will occur at those locations.
- If it is a confirmed illness, those who were exposed to the individual will be notified, as well as the Prince William County Health Department. If confirmed as COVID-19, exposed individuals may be required to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- If more than one case is identified, LHS will work with the local health authorities to determine if community transmission is taking place. Closing some or all of the school until a thorough disinfection can occur may be considered. Longer term closing will be considered in cooperation with local health authorities.
- If a student has an immediate family member who has been diagnosed with Covid- 19 but that person does not attend LHS, the student will be asked to stay home for the 14 day quarantine period.
- Should the campus, or part of the campus, be closed, all students, parents, staff and faculty will be informed via school messenger and postings on the LHS website. The campus will not reopen until disinfection is complete and it is determined to be safe. Distance learning plans would go into effect for all.

Will families receive information on Covid-19 cases in our community?

- Yes, families will be informed immediately if any cases occur in our community, however, names will not be shared for privacy reasons.

Handwashing:

How often will students wash hands?

- Everyone will be expected to wash hands frequently throughout the day. Portable sinks have been purchased for any classrooms that did not have sinks.
- Handwashing will occur before and after eating.
- Handwashing will occur after using the bathroom, sneezing, coughing, or any touching of bodily fluids.
- Handwashing or hand sanitizing will occur when students transition from one activity to another or from one location to another

Daily Structure/Classroom Planning/Physical Distancing:

How will Drop Off and Pick Up Work this year?

- We will be scheduling a staggered drop off and pick up time for our various age groups utilizing a Kiss and Ride for all ages so we can minimize the number of adults in our building.
- Families will be notified of their scheduled drop off and pick up times and designated doors closer to the start of school.
- Those families with multiple age students will have one scheduled drop off and pick up (unless one child is in preschool and one in lower/upper school).
- We ask that all students and parents wear face coverings during drop off and pick up.
- Drop off procedures will include temperature checks and health screening questions.

How many students will be in a classroom in the fall in the in-person model?

- It depends on the physical size of the classroom and ability to physically distance based on Health Department and CDC guidance (currently 6 feet). While an average size classroom may be able to accommodate 12-15 students with physical distancing in place, classroom sizes vary and some classes will have fewer students while others may have a greater number of students. The plan is to have most of our classes split into 2 groups over two spaces with dedicated teachers/staff.
- Preschool classrooms will have 6-10 students per “pod” or group.

How will rooms be configured for physical distancing?

- Consistent with CDC guidance, in classrooms where desks are used, they will be placed so seating is 6 feet apart and facing the same direction. Tables can be used by seating students only on one side of tables, spacing seating 6 feet apart.

- In our younger classrooms, larger furniture (ie tables) will be removed to allow for more individual and small group center play areas.
- In our preschool classrooms, we are utilizing yoga mats for personal space but to allow for social interaction as children play.
- Students will have their own supplies so materials are not shared throughout the day.

How will you maintain physical distancing policies and still provide a social experience for my child?

- We are making plans to allow for smaller class groupings so that physical distancing can be maintained. In addition, we have planned for extra hands whenever possible to provide additional support.
- We recognize that all of us are social beings and that physical distancing will have to be modeled and guided throughout the day while socialization needs are still met. Our preschoolers will have fun making “airplane arms” or “spreading their wings” to learn about their personal space.
- We are making plans to do this in positive and proactive ways so that it is a positive experience for all and our students make connections and form relationships- we remain a family despite the extra precautions.

Will there still be toys and fun in the classrooms?

- Yes!! We will still have lots of supplies and toys in our classrooms to enjoy. Our materials will be stored in individual containers so they can be used by one child at a time and cleaned and sanitized after use. We will be doing our very best to provide students time to play together but in their own defined spaces so they are physically distanced but have social interactions. Preschoolers will have yoga mats for each student so for instance, if two children are playing in the "block center", they will each have their own set of blocks on their yoga mat area but they can be talking and constructing and playing together with their teacher and one another.

What if my child is sad or hurt and needs support?

- Our plans are to be conscious of the 6 feet physical distancing guidelines, however, we recognize that our students need to be supported. We will take the best care of each and every one of our students while they are in our care.

How will lunch work this year?

- We are looking into possibly providing lunch two days a week for our K-8 students from local vendors.
- Lunches will be eaten in classrooms rather than the cafeteria.
- Lunches will be prepacked for those who order so there will be no buffet lines.
- Preschoolers will continue to pack their own lunches and eat in their classrooms or outside learning spaces.
- Preschoolers will bring their own snacks this year.

Will LHS still provide specials programs?

- Our special programs such as art, music/movement/PE, hands on science/OCEW, etc... are all considered essential components of our program and will continue to be offered to enrich and enhance each student's experience. Many specials will be taught outside as often as possible.
- Even if we must go to distance learning for any period of time, specials will be a part of our programming.

Will students be given the opportunity to be outside each day regardless of weather?

- Getting outside each day is of the utmost importance! Recess will occur every day in designated spaces and at designated times in order to maintain our small groups. The preschool playground will continue to be used with cleaning in between use, but the larger playground equipment is closed until further notice.
- Our playgrounds will be CLOSED for before and after school for everyone this year.
- We are currently working on setting up designated outdoor classroom spaces for teachers to spend as much time as possible outside for learning and exploring. Tent coverings have been ordered and outdoor classroom supplies are being gathered. Preschoolers will be asked to bring rain boots and rain poncho to school so “puddle jumping” and rainy day exploration may occur.

Will after school programs/clubs still be available?

- Several athletic clubs (not to include interscholastic competition) will be offered such as: girls/boys soccer, running club, golf
- At this time, we have no plans to have the Preschool afterschool enrichment program. As the year progresses, we will re-evaluate our ability to provide this loved program.
- Summer Camps for 2021 will be evaluated as the year progresses.

Will extended day be available?

- Yes. We plan to continue to offer extended day from 7:00-9:00am and 1:00-3:15 for preschool and until 6pm for K-8, however, based on new student/staff guidelines, we may have to limit our numbers so it will be important for families to sign up for extended day in advance so we can make plans.
- Drop in extended day may not always be available.

Will LHS still have Special Events and Field Trips?

- We have a creative team of teachers who will be working on how we can provide the same enrichment experiences for our students and incorporate the traditions we know and love throughout the year (i.e. buddy classes, shows and programs, field trips, special programs, family events, etc...). Although they may look a little different, we will still have fun, share traditions together, and establish new ways of making wonderful memories.

Social Emotional Health:

Given the impact school closures have had on the well-being of students, what resources will be available this year to support their mental health?

- Social emotional and mental health resources will be available to support students this fall. Schools may use morning meetings/ check-ins, intervention blocks, or advisory periods to provide instruction on social emotional topics using new and existing curriculum. LHS instructional staff will have professional development that focuses on understanding mental wellness and appropriate tools to support students. Clinical and counseling staff will provide mental health support and resources, including group counseling and consultation for students and families as needed as well as individual counseling with students and related consultation with families and staff.

Cleaning:

How will LHS Staff ensure thorough cleaning and sanitizing of the building?

- We have ordered many things to support our cleaning process- *see our chart at the end*
- Classes will be assigned specific bathrooms and a regular cleaning schedule will be in place.
- All handrails, light switches, and high touch areas will be sanitized several times a day. Nanoseptic pads will be placed on all high touch door areas.
- Students will have their own class supplies to minimize sharing of materials. Materials/supplies/toys will be washed and sanitized after each use.
- Frequent handwashing will occur throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be set up around the school.
- In preschool, we are looking at using yoga mats or beach towels for seating so they can be washed/sanitized each day.
- Any playground or PE equipment used will be washed/sanitized after each use.

What is LHS doing to ensure clean air circulation?

- Maintenance staff will conduct routine and preventative maintenance on all mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems – including replacing air filters.
- In areas where an indoor air quality concern is identified we will use high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration systems to enhance air cleaning.
- Windows will be opened as much as possible.
- Outdoor classroom spaces will also be available for daily use.

Changing Conditions:

If the health conditions worsen in our area, how will things change?

- Students may have to move from in-person learning to online learning at some point in the year if health data and recommendations from the Prince William County Health Department/Governor of Virginia necessitate closing schools. LHS will regularly monitor developments with County Health Department authorities regarding cases, exposures, and hospitalizations that might require a change in school operating status.

Families:

Will parents be allowed to volunteer in the school?

- Although we will be limiting the number of extra people in our school building, we will still find ways for our families to feel a part of the LHS. We will have plenty of opportunities for volunteers to support our staff and students outside of school. Our family support is vital in helping us create an amazing program and home for our students and their families.

How can I prepare my child for school in the fall?

- While our faculty and staff work through the details of the reopening, you can begin preparing your child for what school might look like when we return to campus. Some parts of school may look a little different so please begin to talk with your child about physical distancing, wearing masks, temperature checks and the measures we will take to keep everyone safe and healthy while building up their excitement to see their friends and teachers again.
- Continue to teach good practices at home like frequent hand washing, covering a cough, keeping things out of our mouths and on faces (like fingers, hair and toys), keeping things out of our noses (ugh!), and how to greet a friend (e.g. no hugging- let's practice air hugs, wing waves, and dabs :))
- Practice wearing masks and face coverings while doing a 15 – 20 minute activity like reading, coloring, etc. Preschool – 8th Grade students will bring their own masks/cloth facial coverings from home (*families may choose a clear face shield option as long as it covers the sides of the face and extends below the chin.*)
- Support our school safety efforts outside of school by wearing masks in public, practicing physical distancing, and limit exposure in large group settings. We want our staff and students to be as safe as possible each and every day.
- We will be sending some orientation information with videos of some of our new routines and providing a Meet and Greet day prior to the start of school to help with this transition as well.
- If your child is feeling anxious about going out into public or returning to school, please begin talking to them and giving assurance that their school family is working very hard to provide a safe environment for their return to school and that measures will be in place to keep our school community as healthy as possible. We will continue to be the same loving and caring staff filled with many wonderful ways to help our students and families feel safe and supported.
- Together we will make our return to school a safe and fun experience for all.

Will there be a reduction in tuition for those doing distance learning for the whole year?

- Tuition is the same rate if a family chooses the distance learning program as it is for the in person rate.

Will we receive a refund or reduction in tuition in the event that the school needs to transition to all distance learning for any period of time?

- The School Board and Finance Committee are considering tuition options for any all school wide extended distance learning times that are mandated by the Governor.