

Longview Christian School 2021-2022 Plan

This document is our updated response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2021-2022 school year. We are thankful for the progress that has been made in the last year, including vaccinations and decline in infection rates. We are also aware of the recent increase in cases, especially the new variants. We continue to be in a complex situation with many variables and considerations. Thank you for reading with an open mind, understanding that unity is not everyone thinking the exact same way, but instead a group of unique and diverse individuals choosing to move forward in the same direction. We are in this together!

Perspective Reminder

This was all stated last year, but still applies in 2021. We must acknowledge several truths to keep in mind while reading:

1. **It is not possible to make everyone happy.** In our surveys and meetings, we have identified trends and general beliefs that are held widely throughout our constituents; however, it is also quite clear that we all have different viewpoints and concerns. If in reading this plan, you find yourself concerned or disappointed, I get it. I am sorry for our limits. We are simply doing our best in a tough situation, and even though we don't always see eye to eye, I find comfort in knowing that there is value and benefit to be found in diversity of thought that is willing to come together in unity.
2. **We can never prepare perfectly and completely for all possible future events.** This document is our best attempt at planning for the school year, but the key word throughout the pandemic is flexibility. Events will happen that we could not plan for, and we will need to remain flexible and full of grace as we adjust on the move.
3. **God is on the throne.** Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." We recognize the value of studies, research, and planning, but for Christians that is all secondary to yielding ourselves to God and His plans. Our wisdom says to follow the guidance of multiple reliable sources and we are doing that, but our faith remains in Him, not in our plans.

The Plan

Below you will find the current Longview Christian School plan for 2021-2022 school year. It is organized by bullet-point and subject matter. Again, we will be flexible to adjust when new circumstances and new strategies come along. The plan is also not intended to be completely comprehensive; there are many minor decisions or events scheduled later in the school year that will be decided at a future date.

- **Learning Type** – Our students will be back in the classroom for this school year for in-person learning. Much of the plan below details how we will work to ensure safety for our students and staff on campus. During the year any students who are required to quarantine will have options for the at-home learning on a temporary basis. This is not required if the student is too ill to do schoolwork.
- **2021-2022 Calendar** – The decision has been made to attempt to maintain the current calendar as best we can. We do not anticipate any changes or closures but recognize the possibility exists.

One exception is that we will not have Grandparents' Day in 2021. It is possible we will reschedule for later in the school year if the COVID-19 situation improves.

- **Daily Schedule Changes** – At this time we are keeping our normal school daily schedule. We are making some changes to minimize cross-exposure. We are doing some of our elementary specials in the homerooms instead of having them all come to same room. We will continue cleaning in high contact, high traffic areas throughout the day. We are attempting to keep our schools (elementary, junior high, and high school) separate when possible during the day. In the elementary, we are working to keep grade levels separate from each other when practical.
- **Open Communication** – It is very important that we work together as partners this year more than ever. There is no need for embarrassment or stigma associated with this virus. If your child is symptomatic, we need you to share that information immediately, so we have the knowledge we need to respond appropriately. Thank you so much for your help.
- **Planned Safety Measures** – Below you will find some of the safety measures we plan to continue. Of course, this list is incomplete. There are some less significant measures that are not included in the list. As we move forward, if we see an opportunity to increase health safety with minimal downside, we will quickly make the change.
 - Facility Cleaning – Our facilities department will continue to work with our cleaning staff to find ways to maximize their efforts and increase cleaning in the facilities on a daily basis. We will also maintain simple cleaning throughout the day performed by staff and students.
 - Hand Sanitizing/Washing – We will maintain hand sanitizer stations throughout the school and will have sanitizer in every classroom. When possible, we will have students wash hands with soap and water instead of using sanitizer.
 - Daily Screening – It is very important that students do not come to school if they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. This is a partnership we are making with our families. Parents should prescreen their children each morning to ensure they are not symptomatic. Please refer to the CDC Symptoms of Coronavirus pamphlet. Students who begin to feel ill during the day will be immediately checked for fever. Parents will be called to pick up if they register a temperature over 100° F or if they have other COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Face Coverings – At this time, face coverings will be optional for staff and students. In situations where large groups are congregating, face coverings will be strongly encouraged. If circumstances in our area or guidance from officials changes, it is possible face coverings could be mandated again in specific situations, but this is not currently expected. We understand that this is a hot button topic, and we appreciate the different perspectives on the issue. Students and staff will be extended courtesy, grace, and acceptance regardless of personal choices on this issue.
 - Social Distancing – When possible, we will encourage social distancing, but it will not be mandated.
 - Recess/P.E. – We will continue to have outside recess and P.E. when possible in the coming year. Our teachers will have students wash or sanitize hands before and after recess. We will consider any reasonable, positive changes we can make to increase distancing and safety during this time, although interaction is somewhat unavoidable.
- **Attendance** – We are concerned that attendance will be an issue this year. Excessive absences lead to an inability to truly master the material, cause extra work for the teacher, and are a detriment to the entire class. We are not changing our attendance policy but are highlighting it again and explaining how COVID-19 will affect it.

- Current Policy – Per the handbook, parents are the primary authority over the child’s education and as such, determine when they attend. However, if absences exceed 10 in a semester, the student will have points deducted from their final grade. More specifics are in the handbook.
- Exceptions – We have always granted exceptions to the 10-absent limit in unusual situations. An example of an exception in previous years is an extended hospital stay. These will still be handled by the school principals on a case-by-case basis. COVID-19 related absents will be automatically exempted from the 10-absent limit if the student is quarantined by health or school officials or has tested (or is presumed) positive for COVID-19. School admin will communicate with parents in these situations.
- At-Home Learning – Families will be provided at-home learning options if possible while quarantined from school.
- **Quarantine/Testing Procedures** – Below are the most common situations we will face this year and how the school will handle them. It is important that we are open and honest so that the best decisions can be made to prevent spread throughout the school.
 - Symptoms Present – If a student has a fever, they will be sent home and symptoms must be monitored closely. If they develop additional COVID-19 symptoms, we will recommend they be tested for COVID-19. If they are tested and the result is negative or they have an alternative medical diagnosis, they will be able to return to school once they are fever free for 24 hours. If a student has COVID-19 symptoms and parents choose to not do testing, we will have to presume they are positive for COVID-19 and follow the same procedures as a confirmed positive (see below).
 - COVID-19 Confirmed – If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow CDC guidelines for quarantine for that individual. In either case (confirmed or presumed positive) two additional steps will be taken.
 1. We will notify all families who have a student in class with the infected child for informational purposes. We will not disclose the name of the individual who is ill, only that they are in your child’s class.
 2. We will also follow CDC requirements regarding quarantine for all students and/or staff members living in the same household as anyone positive for COVID-19.
 - Several Confirmed Cases – If we have several cases at one time, we will follow the same procedures as described above, but we may need to consider additional measures. Different scenarios will require different responses. For example, if we have multiple cases that are isolated to a single class, we might choose to keep the entire class home for a time to prevent additional spread.
 - Multiple Cases – If the problem becomes more widespread, we may shut down the entire school for a time to prevent additional spread.
- **Assemblies** – Each time we gather in groups we will look to find ways to mitigate potential exposure. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Face coverings will be strongly encouraged, especially for anyone who is concerned about possible exposure or who is not vaccinated.

Please remember that this is our current plan, based on the information we have right now. Changes and additions may be necessary as we proceed together. It is our hope that this plan gives you some peace going into the school year. We are in your corner and on your side. I believe most families will be pleased with this plan, and it is my hope that we can all come together in a spirit of unity and face this

challenge together. We want to get “back to normal,” and we want to move that direction with wisdom. None of us will get it right every time, and so the most important response we can have right now is to pray. Pray for the school leadership. Pray for peace in your heart. Pray for wisdom and direction from God. Pray for safety for our teachers and families. I trust that God is in control and watching over us as we walk this road together. He promises to never leave or forsake us. He will stay beside us through 2021-2022, and I believe He has great things in store for us this year.

We love you, and we cannot wait to have your kids back in school this year!

Ben Cammack, Administrator

for the LCS Teachers, Staff, and School Board

