



SUMMIT
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Dream vividly, learn courageously, and live boldly for Christ!

Dear SCS family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We're blessed to have you in this special community, and we're looking forward to the upcoming school year with great anticipation.

The last four months have been an unprecedented experience for all of us. In spite of the challenges thrust upon us through a global pandemic, you rose to the occasion! It brought all of us on the Summit Christian School board tremendous joy to see our students, families, faculty, and staff successfully complete the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you for your patience, diligence, dedication, and partnership!

As much as we all hoped COVID-19 would dissipate during the summer months, it has not. This unfortunate reality has made preparations for the new school year increasingly complex. Gratefully, with God all things are possible! And we are confident that this community will yet again approach these unique challenges with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

As we all look forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we understand that you have many questions. Please understand that many hours of discussion and prayer, with ample consideration given to guidance from the Ohio Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and local health departments, have gone into the development of our plan. It is our desire to move forward with wisdom so that all of our students can receive the education they deserve. As you'll see, this plan also reflects our personal and Biblical commitment to your health and safety, and our Scriptural obligation to honor government authority (Romans 13; www.coronavirus.ohio.gov). We appreciate your patience while we developed our plan.

Please carefully review the included COVID-19 policies, protocols, and procedures. If you have any questions or comments, we encourage you to utilize a special email address we've created for this specific purpose: COVID@summitchristianschool.net.

Finally, as we're confident you'll understand, these policies, protocols, and procedures will be regularly reviewed and revised as the pandemic progresses, and as government guidelines are changed. Know that we are committed to keeping you informed so that we can all work together to create a safe and healthy learning environment for our students.

Here are the most important pieces of information for you to know for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year:

Attendance

The first day of school is **September 2**. Students will attend class in the school building five (5) days per week. Remote learning will be utilized in the event of a mandated shut down or any other circumstance should prevent us from having students in the building.



Face coverings

Face coverings are required for all adults and students in grades 1-8 while in the school building. Face coverings are strongly recommended for students in kindergarten. All will be responsible for providing their own face covering.

Health assessments

Parents/guardians are responsible for performing a basic health assessment of their child prior to the child getting on the bus or being dropped off at the school building. Parents/guardians will assess their child's temperature and overall health. If a child has any of the following, they are not permitted to come to school:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Non-allergy related persistent cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, or difficulty breathing

The SCS faculty and staff will follow the same guidelines as listed above when conducting their own personal health assessment before coming to school each morning. All students, faculty, and staff will be health assessed upon their arrival to school and the wellness of all faculty, staff, and students will be monitored throughout the school day.

To remove the temptation to attend school when sick, the award for perfect attendance will no longer be awarded.

Social distancing

Faculty, staff, and students will remain 6 feet apart whenever possible. Barriers will be placed in the cafeteria, small group tutoring rooms, library, and classrooms with tables where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Sanitation

Though the cleaning staff at SCS already does a wonderfully thorough job of cleaning and sanitizing our building each day, we will continue and increase our efforts school-wide by:

- installing additional hand sanitizing stations throughout the building,
- encouraging regular hand washing throughout the school day,
- sanitizing commonly touched surfaces regularly,
- sanitizing bathrooms twice a day,
- discouraging shared materials and supplies,
- sanitizing cafeteria tables and benches after breakfast and between lunch periods, and
- sanitizing table dividers after each meal service.

Currently, we are awaiting information from Akron Public Schools (APS) regarding transportation for students. As soon as we have information from APS, we will share it with you.



SUMMIT
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Dream vividly, learn courageously, and live boldly for Christ!

Our reopening plan is specifically designed for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. As such, the administration and board of education will keep a close eye on the progression of COVID-19. We will also continue to stay apprised of any developments or guidance from the CDC, local and state health departments, and the governor as the school year progresses. We will make changes and/or updates as necessary and will do our best to communicate with all of our SCS family as soon as any changes or updates arise.

It goes without saying that it will be a challenge for all of us to start this school year in the current “COVID” climate, particularly since it is ever changing. In the meantime, we welcome your prayers for the administration and board of education. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding our reopening plan, please email us at COVID@summitchristianschool.net.

Blessings,

Summit Christian School Board of Education



Frequently Asked Questions

The Summit Christian School Board of Education would like to thank you again for your patience while our reopening plan was being finalized. We assure you that much prayer, discussion, and research was employed as it was being created. We are committed to providing the best educational scenario we can offer our students.

In response to the release of our reopening plan, members of our school family have expressed questions, comments, and concerns about the plan. The Summit Christian School Board of Education is hopeful that the following will give clarification and help with understanding.

How will bussing work this year?

Bussing for our students will be much the same as last year. Students will have assigned seats and siblings will be seated together whenever possible. There will be no more than two students per seat. The bus windows and roof vents will be opened for increased ventilation. Hand sanitizer will be carried on every bus. And, students will be required to wear their masks while on the bus. Akron Public Schools will send detailed information to families.

Why is there no remote learning option for families?

With the appropriate safety protocol in place, in-person learning is the best educational option we can offer our students for several reasons.

1. Children learn so much more than just the “ABCs and 123s” when they are in a classroom with their peers and their teacher. We hold children’s social and emotional development equally as important as their academics.
2. The majority of our students have parents/guardians whose work schedule does not grant them the freedom to be at home to assist their children if remote learning is optional. If we are faced with another mandated closure as we did last spring, remote learning will be the only option and, therefore, employers will be more understanding.
3. A large number of our students depend on our breakfast and lunch programs for adequate daily nutrition. When our school is closed, students do not have access to sufficient nutrition.
4. For a significant portion of our students, their home language is not English. In-person learning is optimal since the parents/grandparents in those homes have a very difficult time assisting their child with remote learning due to the language barrier.
5. We are diligently working to be equipped and ready to do remote learning online should we be mandated or need to do so in the future. Until we are better equipped with one-to-one technology for students and have our online remote learning resources in place, in-person learning is the best option we can offer.

What if I choose to homeschool my child for the first semester?

1. Ed Choice Scholarship Students

Unfortunately, if you choose to homeschool your child and your child is on an Ed Choice Scholarship, your child will lose their scholarship for the year since they will not be officially enrolled in an Ed Choice provider school. If all of the criteria for being awarded an Ed Choice scholarship are met the following school year, you could reapply. These are rules set forth by



Ed Choice. Additionally, your child will lose their place in the class for this school year and SCS cannot guarantee that their place will be open the following year. Should you choose to become a non-scholarship family and pay tuition, we will make every effort to hold a place in your child's class for this school year.

2. Non-Scholarship Students

If your child is not on a scholarship, we will make every effort to hold a place for your child in their class for this school year.

Will temperatures be taken at school?

All students will have their temperature checked with a touchless thermometer by the office staff as they enter the building. Also, each classroom will be equipped with a touchless thermometer for quick assessment as needed.

How often will bathrooms be cleaned/sanitized?

Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized 2-3 times each day.

How will teachers prepare for the possibility of doing remote learning?

All teachers will be required to have at least two weeks' worth of remote learning plans prepared, which can be distributed at a moment's notice.

When will remote learning take place?

Remote learning will take place in the event of a mandated shutdown or if the Summit Christian School Board of Education determines that in-person learning cannot be conducted safely and effectively.

How will remote learning happen this year?

We are diligently working to equip our school with a Chromebook for each student in grades 3-8 and iPads for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Once those are in place, we will conduct remote learning via online education utilizing Google Classroom, Google Meets, and various online and print materials. In the event that remote learning must happen before the Chromebooks and iPads are prepared, we will use learning packets until the technology is ready, then transition safely and efficiently to online learning.

How will classrooms be arranged to accommodate social distance?

We will organize classrooms so that social distancing can be maintained whenever possible. In some situations where distancing is difficult, dividers and shields will be in place.

Will enforcing mask and social distancing protocols be distracting to teachers?

Adjusting to mask and social distancing protocols will be a challenge at the beginning of the year, as is the case with any new school-wide protocol of this magnitude. We are confident that faculty, staff, and students will adapt quickly.



How will students social distance during recess?

Recess monitors will do their best to enforce appropriate social distance while on the playground. Students will be expected to maintain social distance while at recess. Additional recess protocol will include all students washing their hands when they come in after recess, recess equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, jump ropes, etc.) will not be available to students for at least the first semester. The students will have access to play structures. Indoor recess will take place in classrooms.

Will there be a nurse in the school each day?

No, however our part-time nurse will be conducting thorough trainings with all faculty and staff prior to the school year beginning.

What will happen if there is a positive COVID case within the school?

SCS will communicate with the Summit County Public Health Department when a student or staff person has tested positive for COVID-19 and will fully cooperate with their guidance.

When it becomes known that a student is showing symptoms and has tested positive the following protocol applies:

- SCS will contact the family in order to verify if they have been in contact with both their doctor and the county health department (and been tested).
- SCS will contact the Summit County Public Health Department and cooperate in contact tracing. Summit County Public Health Department will contact potentially exposed students' families per their policies.
- This does not mean a student is automatically quarantined/isolated if he/she was in the same class as someone who tested positive.

What if a staff member or student has been exposed to someone with COVID?

If any staff member or student has been exposed ("exposed" or "exposure" being defined as maintaining less than 6-foot distance for more than 15 continuous minutes or as communicated by the Summit County Health Public Department) to someone with COVID but remain symptom free, you may return to SCS after:

- 14 days or after a quarantine required as directed by the Summit County Public Health Department.

OR

- the individual brings a doctor's note stating that he/she is COVID-free and safe to be back a school.

What if a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19?

A written clearance from a medical professional needs to be provided before returning to school.



What health guidelines will be in place for students and staff specific to COVID?

Symptoms of COVID-19 range from mild to severe and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. The CDC reports that COVID-19 is mainly spread through contact with an infected person's respiratory droplets (such as saliva or mucus from coughing, sneezing, yelling, or talking).

INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT COME TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE ANY **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING:

- fever of 100 degrees or higher
- persistent cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- chills
- nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- loss of taste or smell

INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT COME TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE ANY **TWO** OF THE FOLLOWING:

- body aches
- runny nose or congestion
- headache
- sore throat



What if a student or staff member becomes symptomatic while at school?

All classrooms and the office will be equipped with touchless thermometers. Should anyone feel unwell or display symptoms of illness at any time, they will have their temperature assessed immediately without the unnecessary travel to the office. If a fever is detected (100 degrees or higher) the individual will report, with their belongings, directly to the office clinic. If their symptoms align with those in the question previous to this one, they will also gather their belongings and report directly to the office clinic. For students, they will remain isolated in the clinic and parents/guardians will be called and expected to pick the student up within the hour. For faculty, staff, or substitute teachers, they will leave the building as soon as possible.

When can students or staff return to school after a positive COVID test?

Per the CDC guidance, if an individual tests positive for COVID-19 they will need a note from a medical professional stating that they are safe to return to school.

What if a student or staff member has/had symptoms but didn't have a test or is waiting for the results of a test?

Per CDC guidance, a staff member or student in this situation may return to school after one of the following options:

OPTION A (*ALL criteria must be met*)

- 10 days have passed since symptoms started
- All symptoms have improved
- No fever for at least 72 hours (3 days) without medication

OPTION B

- Present a doctor's note indicating that the cause of the symptoms is due to issues other than COVID-19 and specifically indicating that the individual may return to school.

Will students still switch classrooms?

Students in middle school will remain in their homeroom for each class and the teachers will travel to the students. For our 5th grade classes, they will switch only twice during the day and the desks will be sanitized between switches. As for specials, classes will travel to their specials classes and sanitize their hands as they enter and exit the specials' rooms. Specials classrooms will be sanitized between classes. All classrooms (including homerooms K-8) will be sanitized at the end of each day.

Please know that the administration and board of education will continue to monitor the current situation via the Summit County Public Health Department, Ohio Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention regularly. As you know we are in an ever-changing landscape and we deeply appreciate your patience and flexibility as we continue to adapt to new regulations and potential mandates.



Dream vividly, learn courageously, and live boldly for Christ!

As always, if you have any additional questions, concerns, or comments, please email us at COVID19@summitchristianschool.net.