

July 16, 2020

Dear NLCS Families,

The NLCS Board, along with input from administration and staff, has put together a school reopening plan in light of the ongoing situation with COVID-19.

Fundamental principles of this plan include:

1. **We desire to ensure the school is open five days a week for all students.** We want to have our school day be as typical as possible. Virtual or take-home work would be a fallback or secondary option. We feel this is the most significant way we could serve you and your students.
2. **We desire to focus on the larger goal of continuing our philosophy of education.** We know that some of the safety measures may be a burden, and many question their effectiveness. However, we feel we can still achieve the primary goal of our school, partnering with parents to Classically educate generations of students with academic rigor with a Christ-centered worldview to shape culture and cultivate servant leaders with these measures.
3. While we understand some may not agree with the guidance provided by numerous government organizations, we believe this is the only option for our school to remain open. Therefore, we comply with as much of the OSPI/CDC/Grant County Health Department guidelines as possible. **If we do not attempt to meet these guidelines, NLCS faces the possibility of being shut down.** We understand that many of these standards are not ideal, but we want to be able to keep our doors open. As soon as the state removes these guidelines, we intend to roll them back.
4. This document provides a high-level overview of the plan and will leave some specifics out until staff and administration have time to address them. We gladly desire your feedback, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. If you have concerns, please contact Mr. Dowd to see if a solution can be found.
5. We are offering a plan “B” for families who are still uncomfortable with our proposed plan. Plan B is a virtual option that allows a student to live stream their classroom.

#### **The Plan:**

There are six areas addressed in this plan.

1. Staying home when sick
2. Hygiene
3. Social distancing
4. Face coverings
5. Cleaning and disinfecting
6. Schedule change

## **Staying Home When Sick**

1. Before a student enters the NLCS building, a staff member will check the temperature of each student. If a student has any of the following symptoms, they will not be able to enter the building and must return home:
  - A temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
  - Coughing
  - Sore throat
  - Chills
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Body aches
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Congestion
  - Runny nose
  - Unusual fatigue
  - If the student has a fever, he or she may not return until his or her temperature is less than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours without any fever reducers. Other symptoms should be resolved for 24 hours without medication.
2. If a student or immediate family member is tested for COVID-19, he or she may not return to school until test results are returned.
3. If a student or another member of the household tests positive for COVID-19, all students from that household must remain out of school for 14 days. It may also be necessary to send some or all of that student's classmates into quarantine as well. NLCS will provide educational services to those students while they are away.
4. If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they will be sent home and may not return for 14 days. A sub will fill in for the staff member. It may be necessary to quarantine that teacher's class for 14 days as well.

## **Hygiene**

1. Teachers will spend the first two weeks of school working on handwashing and sanitizing routines for students to ensure appropriate disinfection.

## **Face Coverings**

1. K-12 Students are required to wear a mask/cloth face covering or a face shield during the school day.
2. The face-covering requirement does not apply to Preschool or KinderPrep students. Parents are responsible for providing appropriate protective equipment for their children.
3. Those exempt from wearing a face-covering include those with the following conditions:
  - A disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering
  - Certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing
  - Deaf or hard of hearing and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication
  - Advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person
4. Teachers will provide safe opportunities for students to remove their masks throughout the day.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

1. NLCS will increase its cleaning and disinfecting routines of the school building.

## Schedule

1. The school schedule for the 2020-2021 school year is below
  - a. **School hours are Monday through Thursday 8:10 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday from 8:10 AM to 12:00 PM.** There will no longer be Monday late starts.
  - b. Upon arrival at school, students will go straight to their classrooms in the morning and will be staggered dismissed at the end of the day.
  - c. Lunch will take place in classrooms.
  - d. Music and P.E. will be offered in a staggered sequence to keep classes from mixing.
  - e. On Friday afternoons, teachers will provide enrichment activities for students to complete at home. The half-day allows staff to turn the building around and be ready for Monday morning. Additionally, it grants preparation and collaboration time lost during the week due to COVID-19 procedures.

## Optional Distance Method

1. NLCS will partner with parents to provide a distance option for families who are not comfortable with procedures for this school year.
2. This option will include live streaming classrooms and distance learning solutions.
3. Parents will need to make specific arrangements with the Headmaster. Please schedule a meeting with the Headmaster if you are interested in this option.

## In Conclusion

We understand the above restrictions are not ideal, but we are doing our best to make sure NLCS remains open while functioning as normally as possible in these strange times. If you have concerns about the upcoming school year, please make arrangements to meet with Mr. Dowd. We sincerely desire to accommodate you within the allowable framework.

In Christ,

NLCS Board