



2020-2021 Back to School Plan Details

Thank you so much for your loyalty to Destiny as we prepare to return to the classroom. Although we all look forward to being together again and to working with our students toward their academic success, **doing so safely is of utmost importance**. Because we have had a number of questions about specific details regarding our Back to School Safely Plan, we have decided to define as carefully as possible what this plan will look like.

We believe that the reasonable and safe approach outlined in the plan will allow us to begin school on the regularly scheduled August 20, 2020 date with students on campus full time.

As we mentioned in our first communication, we are relying on information provided by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), which stresses that **students need to be in school whenever possible, with as much normalcy as possible, while keeping safety measures in place.**

A few key ideas from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP):

- “No child or adolescent should be excluded from school unless required in order to adhere to local public health mandates or because of unique medical needs.”
- “Policies (school) should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for a child and adolescent’s developmental stage.”
- “Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection. In addition, children may be less likely to become infected and to spread infection. Policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within schools must be balanced with the known harms to children, adolescents, families, and the community by keeping children at home.”

With these principles in mind, the following plan represents the mitigation strategies that DCS will have in place beginning August 20 when students return to school. **This plan is not exhaustive and does not address every aspect of the school day. Additionally, this plan may change as we evaluate positive or negative changes to the outbreak.** While the school will be extremely vigilant on enforcement and ask for the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete mitigation of risk will take place. The virus is not going away any time soon, so this is DCS’s plan to continue the vital work of Christian education in an environment that recognizes the real need for precautions.

| PLAN ITEM | PROTOCOLS |
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| <p>Screening</p> | <p>Before leaving home for the school day, all students, faculty, staff, and volunteers must self-screen, with the help of parents or a caregiver, when appropriate, for the following symptoms.</p> <p>A person shall not come to school under any circumstances if he/she displays any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A body temperature of 100.4°F or higher any time in the previous 24 hours • Persistent cough not related to seasonal allergies • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea • Chills • Loss of taste or smell <p>Or, any two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body ache • Headache • Sore throat • Runny nose or congestion • Complains of feeling ill <p>Any person determined by a staff person to meet these criteria during the school day will be immediately sent home or placed in a designated isolation area at school until they are taken home. It is required that parents make immediate arrangements for the pick-up of a child presenting any of these symptoms.</p> <p>Students/staff who have only a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual who has COVID-19 may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medications.</p> |
| <p>Hand Hygiene</p> | <p>Regular hand washing and sanitizing are among the most effective ways to control viral spread. Students will have regular access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classrooms and common spaces will have hand sanitizer available to students and staff. Students will be encouraged to use them regularly. • Students will be expected to wash/sanitize their hands before and after lunch, before and after recess, and after using the restroom. • Instruction and reminders on hand washing will be provided by staff. Signs, announcements, and other methods will be used to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene. |
| <p>Parents, Visitors and Volunteers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS will endeavor to minimize visitor and parent traffic in the school buildings. • All parents, visitors, and volunteers should self-screen prior to entering the building. • After the first two days of classes, parents are not permitted beyond the school lobby without a temp check. |

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| Cafeteria | <p>DCS will continue to provide lunch service daily. Current considerations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K3-6th grades will remain with their class in the lunch line and the lunchroom to decrease the likelihood of additional exposure. • Minimize self-serve stations. • Students will be seated in a way to maximize as much social distancing as possible. • Cafeteria employees will be required to wear masks. • Outdoor seating in the pavilion will be encouraged as weather permits. |
| Drop-off and Pick-up | <p>Morning Drop-off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Training drop-off begins at 6:00am for students in K3-6th grade. All students must enter through the front door by the school office and go to the chapel. • From 7:00-8:00am, K3-6th grade students should enter the front door by the school office. 7th-12th grade students should enter through the gym door and remain in the cafeteria. • At 7:00am K3-K5 students will be picked up by a teacher/ aide and taken to their classroom. • 1st-6th grades will remain in the chapel until 7:30am. Elementary teachers will pick up their students by 7:30am and take them to the classroom. • Students in 7th-12th grades will go to the cafeteria from 7:00-7:45am, and then be released to go to their classrooms. • Any students arriving after 8:00am should come through the front school door and check in at the school office. <p>Mid-Day Check Out/In:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Guardian will contact the Front Office to request their child to check out/in. The student will be released for check-out when the parent is visible outside the Front Office. • Student MUST check out/in through the Front Office. <p>Afternoon Pick-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students K3-6th grade should either depart campus with their parent/guardian or be in their designated practice or extended training area by 3:15pm. • All students 7th-12th grade should either depart campus or be in their approved supervised area within 15 minutes of the end of the school day. |
| Chapel/Assemblies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapels will be delayed until we assess our numbers and ability to social distance appropriately. • Students will be seated in a way to maximize as much social distancing as possible. • Other large group assemblies will be limited and/or reconfigured as necessary. |

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| <p>Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, wipes, and paper towels. • Common areas including the cafeteria will be cleaned & sanitized by custodial staff throughout the day, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces like door handles, desks, and shared materials. • Custodial staff will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the entire facility through the use of an electrostatic spray disinfecting system daily. <i>Electrostatic spray surface cleaning is the process of spraying an electrostatically charged mist onto surfaces and objects. The disinfectant is more targeted, and provides more consistent coverage with less waste. The cleaning solution is biodegradable and kills 99.9% of bacteria, viruses, fungi and molds. It is safe on food contact surfaces and has no harmful chemicals.</i> • Interior doors will be propped open during class changeovers, and whenever else it is practical to avoid significant touching by multiple people. • Flow of traffic will be limited to same direction flow in the secondary hallway and other spaces where possible. |
| <p>Drinking Fountains</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water fountains will be temporarily closed until funds are available to purchase touchless water bottle filling stations. • Students should bring their own water bottles to school labeled with their name. |
| <p>Athletics</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCS will comply with all guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Department of Health and Heartland Christian Athletic Association. • If interscholastic sports are not permitted, DCS will explore the development of a program that is permissible by the Oklahoma Department of Health and HCAA. • It is recommended that athletes, coaches, staff, and fans wear a cloth face covering when not actively engaged in physical activity or when social distancing is not possible. • Pre-Workout Screening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All coaches and students must be screened at home for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to each workout. Screening includes a temperature check. • Any person with positive symptoms reported will not be allowed to take part in workouts and must immediately contact his/her primary care provider or other appropriate health care professional. • There must be no sharing of water bottles, towels, clothing, or other individual equipment. • Hand sanitizer must be used when walking into each session. • Individual clothing/towels must be washed and cleaned after every practice session and game. • All athletic equipment including balls must be sanitized before and after each practice session and game. |

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| <p>Face Coverings</p> | <p>The Oklahoma Department of Education recommends that students and staff wear a facial mask. The following will be implemented in accordance with our intention to balance the best possible educational environment with the safest school environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty and staff are encouraged to wear masks in the halls, in all common areas and when helping students in close proximity. Teachers may remove their masks to give group instruction to students. DCS will provide a reusable cloth face mask to all faculty and staff. • Students are encouraged to wear masks during arrival and dismissal time, in the hallways during class changes, and in all common areas where distancing is more difficult to maintain. • We recommend all students bring a fresh, clean mask with them to school each day. • Appropriate instruction will be given to students so that no one is made to feel uncomfortable because they decided to wear or not to wear a face covering. Students will be taught to honor the decisions of other people. |
| <p>Physical Distancing</p> | <p>All classrooms will follow these guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because our classrooms vary in size, each room will be evaluated and the number of students assigned to a given room will reflect social distancing practices. • Classroom seating will be arranged in such a way as to allow the maximum amount of safety considerations possible. • When possible, the sharing of supplies among students will be avoided. When supplies are shared, they will be disinfected between uses. • The nature of the teacher to student relationship makes absolute adherence to social distancing impractical, and perhaps undesirable. However, teachers will use common sense when applying distancing practices between themselves and their students. • Students will be encouraged to maintain distancing at appropriate times. However, the recommendations from the AAP indicate that this is not only impractical to maintain at all times but also undesirable since it affects important social interactions for students. |
| <p>Recess and P.E.</p> | <p>Play is an essential component of a child’s development. The risk of viral spread is significantly lower outside. Therefore, recess will be taken with as little intervention as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recess will be outdoors whenever the weather allows for it. • Distancing requirements will not be enforced, although the teachers will apply common sense. • Students will be required to wash/sanitize hands before and after recess. • P.E., recreational and sports equipment will be regularly cleaned and sanitized. • Playground will be regularly sanitized. |

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| Fine Arts | Performing arts education is an essential component of DCS's curriculum. We will make every effort to provide performing arts instruction and, eventually, performances. Additional precautions will be implemented for band, drama, and choir as needed. |
| Symptoms, Exposure, and Positive Test Protocol for Return to School | <p>The following are from the CDC guidelines at the current time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students/staff who have only a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual who has COVID-19 may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medications. • If a child tests positive for COVID-19, we ask that the school be notified immediately. • Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset AND • At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND • Other symptoms have improved. • Persons infected who never develop COVID-19 symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA. • A student or staff person exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain out of school for 14 calendar days from the date of exposure. "Exposure" is defined as being within 6' of an infected person for more than 15 minutes. Under this definition an entire classroom would likely not be considered exposed to an infected person. Exposure may be limited only to those in immediate proximity of an infected person. |
| Instructional Provisions for Those Out of School | Students out of school due to COVID-19 will adhere to the distance learning protocols of DCS. In the cases of extreme illness, the teacher will work on an individual basis with the student. |
| Distance Learning | Should DCS need to pivot to distance learning as a school, protocols and practices to ensure a high level of engagement in learning will be in place to support this instruction. There is a distance learning plan in place for those in the higher risk category. Contact the school office for more information if you need the distance learning program. |