



# NORTHSIDE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## NCS Plans for Fall 2020

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

Northside Christian School is absolutely committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for our students, faculty, and staff. This document is intended to give our school families a detailed overview of our plans for a healthy reopening later this month. Please understand that these plans have been formulated by school leadership in close consultation of CDC guidelines, physician recommendations, and school family input. We understand that each parent may not agree with every regulation that is being required. However, we believe that this plan is the best way to ensure that we have taken every possible measure to keep your children safe.

We respectfully request that each student, parent, faculty, and staff observe and cooperate with these guidelines in an effort to achieve an in-person school year from start to finish. We also understand that these guidelines may have to change from time to time as the virus progresses. We will do our best to communicate any of these changes clearly and quickly should the need arise.

Below you will find a listing of some frequently asked questions, along with the answers. This should provide a clearer understanding of our plan, policies, and procedures for this fall.

**Will classroom instruction be virtual or in-person this school year?** We are firmly committed to in-person instruction this school year. Medical professionals are

increasingly encouraging the resumption of in-person instruction for the health and well-being of children and adolescents. Additionally, we believe that in-person instruction provides a superior quality of education to its digital counterpart. For this reason, along with the request of our faculty, students, and parents, Northside plans to resume in-person teaching this fall. We plan to make a digital option available for students who may be required to quarantine for extended periods of time so that they do not fall behind in their learning.

**What measures is the school taking to ensure that children remain safe?** Northside is dedicated to the safety and well-being of our student body. For this reason, we have taken the following steps to ensure the health of our students:

- The cleaning regimen of classrooms will be drastically increased including the sanitizing of all high-touch surfaces.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout campus so that students have easy access to them. Additionally, we request that each student bring a bottle of hand sanitizer to keep beside their desk.
- Unused desks will be removed from classrooms so that students will remain as far apart as possible.
- New flooring has been installed in all classrooms and hallways. The new flooring can be more thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- The school schedule will be adjusted so that students move around in hallways and from classroom to classroom less often. This will also reduce the time each day that students interact with students from another grade level.
- To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, guests will not be permitted on campus at this time. No guest will be permitted on campus unless advanced permission has been granted by school administration.
- An essential component of our plan is the doctor-created, doctor-managed *I'm Healthy Today* program.
- We are currently exploring the option of installing bipolar ionization technology into our HVAC system which will help create an environment in which the virus cannot thrive.

**What exactly is the *I'm Healthy Today* program?** *I'm Healthy Today* is a doctor-created, doctor-managed health program designed to keep our students safe by early-detection and isolation of disease. This app-based program will help parents record a daily screening of their children as well as providing access to telemedicine as soon as it's needed. Further explanation and information will be coming soon about the specifics

of the program. Northside has decided to cover the cost of this program this year so that it can be offered to our school families without any additional financial burden.

**What if a student is diagnosed or showing signs of COVID-19.** The doctors associated with *I'm Healthy Today* will help in this determination. A student who is showing signs/symptoms of the virus or who has tested positive will be asked to stay home until they have been released by a physician to return to school. Parents of students who have had contact with the ill child will be notified while maintaining anonymity of the sick student. Classmates of the child who has become ill will still be permitted on campus unless they too are showing symptoms. Students who live in a home with someone who is suspected to have the virus will also be asked to stay home until released by a physician. As always, students who are running a fever will not be permitted on campus.

**What happens if my child's teacher becomes ill? Will class keep going?** We are working to make sure that we have a substitute staff that will allow us to continue school should a teacher become sick.

**Will face coverings be required of my child?** We do not plan to require face coverings of students all day on campus. However, there are times when face coverings will be necessary to reduce the risk of transmission or infection. For instance, students in the upper school will be asked to wear face coverings when in the hallways since social distancing is not possible. As a reminder, we plan to limit these times so that face coverings should only be required for a couple of minutes each day. The lower school schedule has been arranged in such a way that masks should not be necessary, except for during drop-off and pick-up and when moving around campus when social distancing is not possible. Your child is permitted to wear a mask at any time that you as a parent deem that it is necessary.

**Will drop-off/pick-up be any different?** We do ask that students wear masks at drop-off and pickup each day. We understand that this may be difficult for some of our lower grades but ask that all students who are able follow this procedure. Teachers will be in their rooms beginning at 7:30 this year so that students who are dropped off may go directly to their classrooms. Any students dropped off before that time will still be housed as normal but should wear their face coverings until they get to their classrooms. Drop-off will continue as normal since it is outside, and students will be masked.

**How will lunch be handled this year?** Hot lunch will still be available on campus. Students may also continue to bring their own lunch should they so desire. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below will eat in their classrooms with hot lunches being delivered. Students in middle and high school will continue to eat in the gym. The gym will be set up to allow for social distancing.

**Will chapel still be offered this year?** Yes. Chapel will be moved to the church auditorium to allow for maximized social distancing.

**Will there still be a Fine Arts program this year?** Yes, though it may look a little different. We will be moving the location of our choir and band rehearsals so that students may remain socially distant. Additionally, we are not currently scheduling any performances or concerts but will do so as soon as we are sure that it can be done safely.

**What about recess and PE?** Lower school students will still go to recess since it is outside most of the time. The schedule will be rearranged so that grades are outside together as little as possible. P.E. will still be offered. The number of students inside the locker room at one time will be limited so that students can remain socially distant.

**Will NCS still offer an athletic program this year?** Yes. We plan to offer as much as we can safely offer this year. We are currently planning on an athletic calendar this year and are working with our association and other schools to ensure that this can be done safely. We will announce allowances for visitors before each game as we work with other schools to make sure that they are comfortable. Students will still be allowed to ride on buses but will also be allowed to travel with parents this year. We will strive to maximize social distancing on busses and increase ventilation and air circulation on the trips.

**Will water fountains be accessible on campus?** Currently our water fountains are not open for use. We encourage parents to send water bottles with their children each day. They will be permitted to keep them in the classrooms for the time being. Additionally, we will be purchasing touch-free, auto-fill water fountains so that students can refill their bottles throughout the day.