



Church ^{of the} Redeemer

PARISH DAY SCHOOL

Reopening Framework - Frequently Asked Questions

Guiding Principles/School Program:

Redeemer is known for its strong and comprehensive curriculum? Does COVID present challenges with this?

We will continue to provide a child-centered curriculum that addresses the development of the whole child, building a strong foundation and love of learning. We know preschool students learn best in an interactive, open-ended environment. This will not change. While we have always embraced the opportunity to be outdoors, given our current climate, we are especially grateful for our expansive playgrounds and large campus.

In preschool, children are young. Do you plan to implement distancing measures with peers and staff? Will students share materials or play together?

Early childhood learners cannot be expected to conform to the same distancing measures as adults or older children. We know that our students will come into close contact with one another. While our groupings, cohorts and face coverings will help us mitigate risk, we know that our students will share materials, touch the same objects, and play together. We will increase hand washing, cleaning and separate and sanitize toys that students have touched with their mouths. While each child will be equipped with a container of personal frequently used materials, we do not intend to provide each child with personal bins or toys to use or play in isolation.

If my child becomes hurt or needs a hug, how will staff handle that?

Our teachers will give the same TLC as always. They will wear face coverings and implement measures to protect themselves as well as students, but if students need to be picked up when hurt or sad or need a hug, we plan to do so.

Can you explain more about how the cohorts and class groupings will work?

We will have cohesive groups at each level that will learn, play and eat together. For example, there will be three separate pre-k classes with a maximum of 9 students per class. These classes will be housed in the same hallway. While we will try to maintain the integrity of each class, cohorts will share hallways and bathrooms. In forming classes, we are considering a variety of factors such as boy to girl ratios, other siblings in the school, and children registered for our afternoon program. Class assignments will be available the week of August 17.

We recognize that with preschoolers and a small population like ours, that cross-over among classes can happen. While we understand that cohorts and small groups will help to mitigate risk, we also know children and staff are all part of community that extends beyond Redeemer.

Will students only be with their classroom teachers? What about the shift for the afternoon program and Lunch Bunch?

Students will be with their classroom teachers but will also meet with specials teachers either outside or in their classrooms. While we will try to maintain the integrity of our morning groupings, students in our 3s and pre-k classes who enroll in Lunch Bunch may experience some crossover with students in other classes and may be supervised by a different staff member in the afternoon. Staff changes comply with the current Office of Child Care's guidelines.

What are the requirements regarding a change of clothes and items stored at school?

All students should have at least two sets of clothes to change into, masks, an art smock, and rain gear. More detail related to this will be communicated by your child's teacher. All items will be stored in personal cubbies and should be clearly marked. Each student is required to bring a full, and clearly marked, water bottle. At this time, no other items are required or recommended by our pediatrician or the Office of Child Care.

Singing seems to contribute to the transmission of COVID. How does Redeemer plan to address this?

We are still trying to learn more about this. Preschoolers love to sing so we are researching ways that we may be able to do this safely. We still plan to have music classes, with an emphasis on movement, dancing and instruments. To the extent possible, our music classes will be held outside.

Can you tell me more about your professional development plan?

Our reopening committee has been gathering resources to help our teachers plan for our return to school. These include articles, information, and professional development related to outdoor learning, addressing anxiety, school safety related to COVID and teaching anti-racism to early learners. There will not be a specific framework or plan related to this to be shared with parents.

Community Collaboration/Partnership:**When will the updated handbook for this year be available?**

We are working on it and hope to have it to families sometime next week. Please note that the return to school agreement and confirmation of reading the handbook are due on August 17.

Is there an agreement for the faculty and staff? Do they have to self-quarantine or present a negative COVID test before the school year.

Yes, the faculty and staff are signing a return to work agreement, similar to the agreement signed by parents. At this time, we are not asking staff or students to self-quarantine or present a negative COVID test before returning to school.

How can we be sure that our community will do what is possible to reduce our community's exposure to COVID?

We are entering into a shared commitment to one another and are relying on the transparency of our community related to illness and exposure to COVID. We also understand that family and staff members must go to work, will socialize, have siblings in different school environments and will have contacts outside of the Redeemer community.

Can you explain more about travel restrictions?

We plan to follow the state of Maryland's guidance regarding restrictions and/or self-quarantines for out of state travel. Again, we are entering a shared commitment to one another and are relying on the transparency and open communication of our community. We continue to monitor guidelines and mandates for the state of Maryland.

I understand that face coverings will be required for students and staff. My child is young and face coverings are a challenge.

Per Baltimore City mandates, we are all required to wear face coverings. As early childhood educators, we understand that face coverings will be challenging with our population, most specifically our youngest students. We will do the best we can to encourage our students to keep them on, while also allowing for breaks when distancing is possible. We are hopeful that our students will feel encouraged by seeing their peers and teachers wear them. Next week you will receive some recommendations regarding face coverings for small children, and we encourage you to start practicing now.

What if my child has a medical condition that prevents him/her from wearing a face covering?

We understand that certain students may be compromised when wearing face coverings. If this is the case, please provide us with a written waiver from your pediatrician.

My child refuses to wear a mask. How will this be handled?

We know that for some children wearing a mask is a challenge. An email will go out on Monday with some tips for how to prepare them. Please reach out to us if you are not finding success. We will work with families to offer suggestions and advice.

I read that the teachers will be provided with face shields. I have read they are not as safe as masks. Will teachers wear masks as well?

Yes. The staff will be required to wear masks. The face shields are provided as extra protection.

What are the symptoms of COVID?

As defined by the CDC, the symptoms of COVID are: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. We recognize these can also be the symptoms of other regular childhood illness. If your child or someone in your family is experiencing these symptoms, your child may not come to school. If your child or a family member is experiencing symptoms of any kind, please contact your pediatrician for guidance and notify the school office. Again, transparent communication and our partnership is paramount to our success this year.

How will the school screen for COVID?

We realize there is no foolproof way for us to screen for COVID, but our carpool procedures will include a screening of questions which will be similar to those experienced at your pediatrician as well as a temperature check. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4° will not be allowed to come to school. We are still in the process of developing these procedures. Please be sure you register and download our Brightwheel app. It will be used as a tool for communication, touchless carpool procedures, and online billing.

What if someone in my family or my child tests positive for COVID?

You are required to notify the school office and your child should not come to school. Redeemer Parish Day School is obligated to notify the department of health and the Office of Child Care who will guide us in our response. We plan to be open and transparent with our community regarding COVID infections, while also maintaining the privacy of individuals.

If my child is out sick with COVID or another illness, after symptoms subside, how long will we have to wait before returning to school?

We are still trying to learn more about this and plan to rely on advice from health care providers, the Office of Child Care, and the Baltimore City Department of Health. Again, open communication and transparency is paramount.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting & Airflow**Can you tell us more about cleaning?**

A thorough nightly cleaning of all rooms, bathrooms, offices, railings, hallways, and high-touch surfaces will be will take place. The facilities staff will also clean high contact surfaces and bathrooms periodically throughout the day. It is not feasible to clean restrooms after each use.

Handwashing seems important. Can you elaborate on this?

Yes. Students and staff will undergo regular handwashing, including immediately upon arrival, before and after eating, after outdoor play and after using shared supplies and toys. Redeemer is equipped with a multitude of sinks and additional stations will be set up outside.

I have read a lot about airflow and its importance of reducing risk. How is Redeemer addressing this?

Redeemer is fortunate to have a lot of windows and a modern HVAC system. To the extent possible, we plan to have the windows open all day. Our HVAC filters will be maintained and cleaned regularly by our facilities staff. Most importantly, we will take much of our learning outdoors in the open air.

School closures:

How can you be sure that no one will get COVID?

In all transparency, there is no such thing as zero risk. We are putting in measures to reduce the risk, with the recognition that we are amid a pandemic, and because it is impossible to create an insular community, someone may become sick.

If my child must quarantine or is unable to come to school due to personal or family illness, will Redeemer provide Continued Learning at home?

No. We are not equipped to simultaneously provide in school learning and continued learning for individuals who may not be able to attend school.

If my child's class or cohort is required to quarantine temporarily, will support be provided?

Yes. If a class, cohort or the school is required to shut down temporarily due to illness or exposure to COVID, the school will provide Continued Learning Plans for our 2s, 3s, and Pre-k, up to three weeks. We will provide a distance learning plan for our kindergarten and pre-first students for the duration of a closure. We plan to make up lost time to the extent possible by shortening or canceling school breaks or holidays and/or by adding time onto the end of the school year.

If the governor closes childcare, and Redeemer applies to become an essential personal childcare, how long will the process take?

Based on information from our licensing specialist and the precedent of this past spring, the process should be relatively quick – likely less than a week. At this time, we have been assured by our licensing specialist that we would be authorized to operate as an essential personal childcare.

What can we do to help and support the faculty and staff for their time, dedication and hard work to reopen school?

Our return to school involves a great deal of energy, time, and work on behalf of our teachers and administration. Based on current research, we understand that our staff's risk is greater than our students', but we remain dedicated to our role as early childhood educators. We believe profoundly in the importance of the learning that takes place in an environment like ours. We understand the positive impact on students and families, our local community, and greater society as well. Your support and open communication will help with our success.

