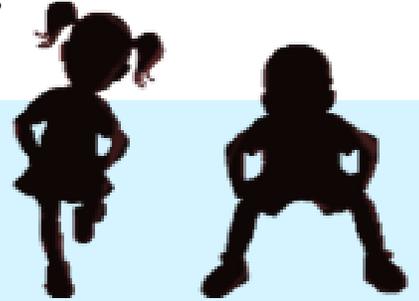




## REOPENING PLAN FALL 2020

### **Our reopening plan has been guided by:**

- The Maryland State Department's Office of Child Care & the CDC
- Redeemer Parish Day School's consulting pediatrician & The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland COVID-19 Response Team
- The Redeemer Parish Day School Advisory Board
- Our mission, beliefs, and knowledge as early childhood educators



### **REDEEMER PARISH DAY SCHOOL'S GUIDING BELIEFS:**

#### **Early Childhood Education:**

- Promotes the healthy growth and development of the whole child
- Cultivates awareness and sensitivity towards others through personal interactions
- Emphasizes play, exploration, and learning through mistakes
- Fosters a child's growing independence and confidence
- Provides a fun experience where children and teachers enjoy learning

#### **Early Learners Thrive:**

- Through personal interactions with peers and teachers
- In an engaging, child-centered, and multi-sensory environment
- With dedicated teachers who ensure they feel nurtured and safe
- Through a variety of open-ended experiences and learning environments
- Where outdoor learning and play are priorities

#### **During this time of COVID-19, we understand:**

- The early childhood model of education works best in person.
- The social and emotional development of preschoolers is dependent on interactions with peers and teachers.
- A return to school presents risk for staff and students; however, schools are fundamental to child development and well-being.
- It is impractical to expect preschool aged children to conform to the same distancing measures as adults or older children when it comes to interactions with their peers and care givers.
- Preschoolers are tactile learners who will share toys and materials.
- The community commitment to creating an environment for the safe return to school for our students and staff is paramount.
- School will look and feel different next year, but we will continue to offer our students a high-quality preschool experience where our students find they love learning.



# SCHOOL PROGRAM



## **Learning Cohorts & Class Sizes:**

- All student-teacher ratios will be kept at or under current state guidelines.
- We will have several small classes at each age level.
- Except for the 2s, who will have a lead and an assistant teacher, each class will have one lead teacher.
- To the extent possible, we will maintain the integrity of each class; they will learn, play, and eat together.
- To limit interactions among different groups, each age level will be housed in a learning cohort by location. Learning cohorts will share hallways and bathrooms.  
*(Please refer to the maps and class cohort chart attached to this email.)*

## **Kindergarten & Pre-first:**

- At least for the first semester, kindergarten and pre-first students will not mix classes for learning, playtime, or lunch.
- To accommodate their full day schedule, our kindergarten classes will be relocated to double-sized classrooms. Pre-first will remain in their double classroom.

## **Specials Classes & Resource Teachers:**

- All specials classes will take place in classrooms or outdoors.
- The Hale Auditorium, which will be cleaned between classes, will be used as needed.
- Until further notice, our parent-run library program and 2s Story Time will be staffed by Redeemer faculty.
- Students in the 3s through Pre-first will have regular enrichment classes in music, PE, art and science classes. Kindergarten and Pre-first will continue to have enrichment classes in Spanish and world cultures.
- Our Values program will be taught by classroom teachers.
- Chapel will take place outside in the large grassy area adjacent to the playground so that classes can participate with proper distancing measures.
- Our administration team will circulate throughout the day to assist classroom teachers.

## **Early Drop-off & Lunch Bunch:**

- Until further notice, our Early Drop-off program has been suspended.
- Our Lunch Bunch program, with some accommodations, will continue for our 3s and pre-k students. Additional information will be emailed separately to parents in those classes.

## **School Schedule:**

- We will begin the school year the week of August 31. *(Revised schedule forthcoming.)*
- Our morning program will begin as early as 8:30 and end at 11:45.
- Our full day program will begin as early as 8:30 and end at 2:45.
- Our 2 Day 2s program has been extended from 11:30 to 11:45.
- All students must be dropped-off and picked-up in our carpool line.
- Changes to our carpool line procedures and drop-off times will be communicated separately.

### **Materials, Toys & Personal Belongings:**

- Students will be supplied with a container of frequently used personal materials (i.e. scissors, crayons, pointers for electronic whiteboards, etc.)
- Additional handwashing and cleaning measures will occur after using shared supplies or toys.
- Each student's belongings will be kept in a personal cubby.
- Lunches should be sent in either disposable bags or Bento boxes that should be cleaned nightly.
- Only essential items may be brought from home.

### **Outdoor Learning & Playground**

- Redeemer's expansive playground and 8 acres of campus grounds will be used for outdoor learning and unstructured play.
- A temporary tent will be installed to accommodate classes outside.
- The playground will be sectioned off to contain separate classes.
- Through a rotating schedule, classes will have access to all areas of the playground.
- The 2s classes will continue to utilize the small, contained playground adjacent to the school.
- As always, Redeemer students will go outside in a variety of weather conditions. School requirements related to proper attire for outdoor learning and play can be found at the end of this document in the "Checklist for Return to School".

### **Professional Development Plan:**

- Redeemer teachers and staff are participating in webinars and professional development, while also researching topics related to our return to school. Topics include outdoor learning, supporting social and emotional health, school health and safety related to COVID, and teaching anti-racism to early learners.

## **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP**

### **Policies for Students, Staff and Families:**

- Included in this communication is a parent "Return to School" agreement that must be signed and returned by August 17.
- A new edition of the Redeemer Parish Day School Handbook has been updated specifically for the 2020-2021 school year and will be emailed next week. All parents must read, sign, and return a parent confirmation form by August 17.
- Redeemer Parish Day School will follow the state of Maryland's guidance regarding restrictions and/or self-quarantines for staff or families who may travel out of state.
- Until deemed safe, all visitors and parents are unable to enter the Day School building.
- Until further notice, all field trips and in-house programs featuring outside visitors are postponed.
- Traditions, events, and gatherings will look different this year. We are excited to connect our community and celebrate in new ways.



### **COVID Screening, Temperature Checks and Face Covers:**

- Our carpool procedure will include a touchless COVID screening, temperature check, and carpool signature.
- Full-day students will undergo mid-day temperature checks.
- All approved carpool drivers must be registered in the Brightwheel app.
- All carpool drivers are required to wear masks during drop-off and pick-up.
- Per Baltimore City mandates, students and staff will wear masks indoors and outside when distancing is not possible.
- Students and staff will be given masks breaks when distancing is possible.
- Staff will be supplied with clear face shields and smocks.

### **Community Health:**

- If a student or staff member is experiencing symptoms or illness of any kind, they should not come to school. Parents are required to notify the school office when a child is absent.
- If a student, family member or staff demonstrates symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19; they should not come to school, it should be reported to the school office, and Redeemer Parish Day School is required to notify the Baltimore City Health Department & Office of Child Care.
- If a student becomes sick at school with a fever or symptoms of COVID, the child will be taken to an isolated outdoor area (the "Cove") to be supervised by a staff member in PPE. In the event of inclement weather, the student will be taken to the Hale Auditorium which will be temporarily shut down and cleaned. Parents will be notified via Brightwheel and need to arrive within 30 minutes. To facilitate this process, it is critical that families confirm all contact information is up to date in Brightwheel and that a minimum of two emergency contacts are provided.
- Classroom teachers will be supplied with items to treat minor health issues not related to COVID.
- Distancing measures will be put into place during snack, lunch, and in restrooms. Snack and lunch will take place outside as often as possible or in the classrooms.
- Water fountains will be temporarily closed. All students should bring a clearly labeled, full bottle of water.

### **Welcoming Students and New Families, Orientations:**

- Parent Orientation will take place outside in small groups with distancing measures on Monday, August 31. A virtual option will be available for those who are unable to attend in person.
- In lieu of Student Orientation, a distance greeting with teachers and test run of carpool procedures for ALL classes will take place on Tuesday, September 1.
- Parents and students will be provided with a virtual classroom tour and greeting from their teachers prior to school.
- A schedule and additional detail for both orientations will be emailed separately.

## **CLEANING, SANITIZING, DISINFECTING & AIRFLOW**



### **Regular Handwashing:**

- Students and staff will be required to wash hands immediately upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the restroom, after outdoor play, and after using shared supplies and toys.

### **Cleaning:**

- A thorough nightly cleaning of all rooms, bathrooms, offices, railings, hallways, and high-touch surfaces will take place.
- Redeemer facilities staff will clean high contact surfaces and bathrooms periodically throughout the day.
- Toys and learning materials will be cleaned, disinfected, and rotated regularly.

### **Airflow:**

- The HVAC system will be monitored, and air filters will be cleaned regularly.
- As much as possible, classroom and hallway windows will remain open throughout the day.

# SCHOOL CLOSURES



- For the 20-21 school year, RPDS will make our own determinations in the event of inclement weather. Notifications and alerts will be communicated through the Brightwheel app.
- We have created small cohesive groups to lessen the risk of transmission of illness. Should a student or staff member experience symptoms of COVID or receive a positive diagnosis, RPDS will contact the Baltimore City Department of Health who will determine if a class, cohort, or the school needs to close temporarily.
- Should Governor Hogan shut down childcare programs, Redeemer will apply to be an Essential Personnel Child Care. At this time, our approval has been assured by our licensing specialist.
- For 2s, 3s, and pre-k students whom we cannot serve in the event of a shutdown, we will provide Continued Learning Plans for home for a maximum of three weeks. We will make every attempt to make up additional time lost through shortening or canceling school breaks or holidays and/or by adding time onto the end of the school year.
- Due to Maryland state law, the kindergarten and pre-first students whom we cannot serve in the event of a shutdown will be provided Continued Learning Plans for the duration of time away. As we did this past spring, these students will utilize Seesaw, an interactive online learning platform. We will make every attempt to make up additional time lost through shortening or canceling school breaks or holidays and/or by adding time onto the end of the school year.
- Dependent on details related to a long-term closure, and if we are unable to make up lost time, tuition may be modified or reimbursed.
- We continue to operate in a time of unpredictability and may have to make changes or alterations to our policies regarding school closures. As proven this past spring, we plan to be fair and reasonable to our families and staff.
- We are making every effort to keep our students and staff healthy, safe, and in school. To do this, the efforts and the shared commitment of our entire community are crucial.



## Checklist for return to school:

### Documents:

- Read, sign, scan and email confirmation of the Redeemer Parish Day School Handbook to [kpoe@redeemberbaltimore.org](mailto:kpoe@redeemberbaltimore.org) by August 17.
- Read, sign, scan, and email the "Return to School" agreement to [kpoe@redeemberbaltimore.org](mailto:kpoe@redeemberbaltimore.org) by August 17.
- Ensure health forms and immunizations are up to date. New forms are required for new students and kindergarten students and were due on August 1.



### Technology:

- Download and become familiar with the Brightwheel app.
- Ensure all emergency information, contact information and approved carpool information is updated in Brightwheel.
- Ensure all approved carpool drivers have downloaded the Brightwheel app and are familiar with our carpool procedures.



### Supplies:

- Purchase required rain boots, raincoat & rain pants(optional) to be kept at school.
- Bring a clearly labeled, full water bottle to travel daily to and from school. Water bottles should be cleaned nightly.
- Ensure adequate supply of disposable lunch containers or a Bento Box.
- Plan for dressing in layers. Our windows will be open, and we will be outside a lot.
- Have my child practice wearing a mask.
- Organize several sets of clothes, including masks, clearly labeled and ready to send to school in Ziplock bags. All students will be required to keep two sets of seasonal clothes at school.

### Most Important:

- Start talking to my child about the new school year. Listen to their thoughts. Answer their questions. Help them feel reassured that they are going to school where they are loved by their teachers and classmates.

