



## COVID PROTOCOLS & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

**UPDATED & REVISED – 2021.2022**

**This document has been guided by:**

- Maryland State Department of Health, the Office of Child Care and the CDC
- Redeemer Parish Day School's consulting pediatrician, Jason Goldstein and The American Academy of Pediatrics
- 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 young learners is dependent on interactions with peers and teachers.
- The COVID-19 pandemic presents risk for staff and students; however, schools are fundamental to child development and well-being.
- It is impractical to expect young children to conform to the same distancing measures as adults or older children when it comes to interactions with their peers and care givers.
- Young learners are tactile learners and will share toys and materials.
- School will look and feel different again this 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 & Classes:**

- Except for the 2s, who will have a lead and an assistant teacher, each class will have one lead teacher.
- Each age level will be a cohort and housed by location. Learning cohorts will share hallways, bathrooms, and will combine for PE, music, and values. These classes will take place outside or in the Hale Auditorium.
- Specials/enrichment classes (art, science, library, Spanish, world cultures, geography) will take place in the specials' classrooms or outside.

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

- Early morning drop-off will take place outside to the extent possible. Due to staffing limitations, children will be mixed with different age groups.
- Lunch Bunch, a play-based afternoon program for our 3s and pre-k students, will again be offered. To the extent possible, we will maintain the integrity of our morning cohorts, but some crossover is possible.

## **Outdoor Learning & Playground:**

- Redeemer's expansive playground and 8 acres of campus grounds will be used for outdoor learning and unstructured play.
- The playground will be sectioned off to contain separate classes, but classes within a cohort may mix, providing opportunity to socialize with students in other classes at the same age level.
- 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 in the "Checklist for Return to School", emailed earlier this summer.

## **Lunch, Snack & Birthday Treats:**

- 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.
- Special birthday treats will be provided by the school. Please do not send in food to share.

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

## **Policies for Students, Staff and Families – Travel, Visitors & School Traditions:**

- Unvaccinated members of our community who travel to locations with a 7-day positivity rate greater than 10% will be required to obtain a negative PCR no earlier than three days after their return, provided they do not have symptoms.
- For the time being, all visitors and parents are unable to enter the Day School building.
- Traditions, events, and gatherings will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Plans will be communicated prior to events. We are excited to connect our community and celebrate cherished traditions.

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

- Our carpool procedure will include a touchless COVID screening, temperature check, and carpool signature. To expedite the process, temperatures will not be recorded.
- All carpool drivers are required to wear masks during drop-off and pick-up.
- Due to rising case counts and an unvaccinated student body, students and staff will wear masks indoors and outside.
- Students and staff will be given masks breaks when distancing is possible.

### **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. Parents will be notified via Brightwheel and need to arrive within 30 minutes.
- Quarantining protocols for students and staff will be guided by our advising pediatrician and MSDE.
- All Redeemer faculty and staff are vaccinated.
- Vaccination is strongly advised by the health care community as a critical mitigation strategy and important measure of protection for our unvaccinated children. We encourage all eligible members of our community to consult with health care providers to make an informed decision regarding vaccination.

## **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.
- Outdoor handwashing stations will be available.

### **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.

We continue to operate in a time of unpredictability and may have to make changes or alterations to our policies and mitigation strategies. 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.