

REIMAGINING COMMUNITY

our plan to return to campus 2020-21



Dear St. David's **COMMUNITY**,

For almost 50 years, students and faculty have returned each August to our campus on White Oak Road to begin a new school year. The first day of school for our students is always filled with the excitement of re-connecting with friends, the anticipation of the classes, events and athletic seasons ahead, and perhaps embracing the rhythm of a structured routine. In many ways, this year will be no different.

But as we all look forward to a return to some form of normalcy with the opening of school, we acknowledge that this year also brings with it new questions as we navigate this familiar routine in unfamiliar times. As a Leadership Team, we have worked throughout the spring and summer to reimagine what **COMMUNITY** means at St. David's and how we can maintain a caring and supportive environment that will allow St. David's School to open for on-campus learning. Using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and other resources to inform our decisions, we want to share with our community our current plans for the 2020-21 school year.

Please take the time to thoroughly read the plan. We appreciate your trust, understanding, flexibility and grace as we all navigate these unprecedented times together while holding steadfast to our mission to prepare young men and women for college and life by challenging them to excel in the vital areas of faith, virtue and knowledge.

We are excited about this new school year and being together. Great things are in store for all of our students.

The St. David's Leadership Team,

Matt Hillegass, Head of School

Miriam Leshnock, Assistant Headmaster of Finance and Operations

Ryan Messmore, Assistant Headmaster for Academic Affairs

Krissie Barr, Dean of Student Affairs

Justin Carreker, Academic Dean and Interim Upper School Principal

Jason Redmond, Interim Middle School Principal

Virginia Matthews, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management

Emily Nelson, Director of Marketing and Communications

Mary Allison Raper, Director of Advancement

Anne Sena, Director of Technology

Leigh Stallings, Executive Assistant to the Headmaster

Ricardo Viera, Athletics Director

LeeAnne Whitworth, Lower School Principal

Please be advised that this document represents our return-to-school plan as of August 2020. As the school year progresses, the pandemic continues and local and state government mandates change, the leadership of St. David's School will amend our protocols as necessary but will not be making additional updates to this document.

Using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), the state of North Carolina and other resources to inform our decisions, the following pages outline St. David's School's plans for opening our academic year on campus. This document is an overview of the steps St. David's will implement to allow our **COMMUNITY** to gather again, albeit in ways that will look and feel different.

St. David's is committed to the following principles, which guide our return to campus:



The health and safety of our faculty, staff, students and their families are the critical priorities.



Preparing our students for college and life by the delivery of excellent education—not just in knowledge, but also in faith and virtue.



Providing education on campus with additional technology, allowing flexibility for our students and teachers who need to join their classes from home if the COVID-19 virus directly or indirectly affects them.



Ensuring we are caring well for the multi-dimensional needs of our faculty and staff.



Acknowledging that student life, wellness and school spirit are important in the day-to-day life of our students, we will seek to create opportunities for students to contribute to the academic, athletic, spiritual and cultural life of the school.



Intentionally finding ways for our community to gather together in person, through small-sized groups or via technology.



Seeking to balance a desire for normalcy with a realization that some things will not be normal this year—this is a year that will call for grace and flexibility as we partner together through these unprecedented times.

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HEALTH & SAFETY

At the forefront of returning to campus is the health and safety of all who will be there. In addition to the already familiar 3 Ws (Wash your hands, Wait 6 feet apart, and Wear a mask), following several additional—yet easy to achieve—steps will help us provide continued on-campus learning for the majority if not all of our community.



Parents will be responsible for completing a Daily Health Screening for each of their children, every morning, prior to arriving on campus. (See pages 11 & 12).



All members of the St. David's community in LS, MS and US will be required to wear a face covering where distancing cannot be maintained or upon teacher request. This can include a mask or buff or a face shield for a LS student.



Twenty additional portable hand-sanitizing and five portable handwashing stations are in place on campus. Hand-sanitizer will be available in every classroom, office and conference room. Employees and students will be encouraged to wash and clean their hands frequently.



Numerous initiatives have been implemented on campus to increase physical distancing, between three to six feet or more, per guidelines from the AAP for educational institutions. This includes outdoor spaces for learning activities, strategic room configurations, decreasing the number of transitions, increased transition times, strategic locker assignments, directional foot-traffic guidelines, and signage.



Use of water fountains has been discontinued. Water bottle filling stations are available. Each student received a St. David's water bottle on the first day of school and are encouraged to bring it or their own water bottle each day.

SUPPORTING OUR **COMMUNITY**

It goes without saying that the successful return to school relies on the full support and participation of all St. David's community members – students, teachers, staff, faculty and parents. Implementing these easy-to-follow guidelines will help mitigate risks to all and allow us to continue to care for one another and remain on campus.



Our Wellness Center has been reconfigured with three separate treatment areas to allow for isolation of a symptomatic person if necessary, and to protect otherwise healthy students who are visiting for minor injuries or wellness. A second nurse has been hired to serve the health needs of our community this year. Our School Counselor has a new home base in St. Timothy's Hall.



In addition to a deep cleaning and sanitizing of all campus spaces, our new cleaning provider, The Budd Group, has applied an anti-microbial barrier treatment designed to reduce the spread of disease using green, patented, FDA-approved technology to all area surfaces and buses prior to the start of school and maintained as necessary.

A day porter is on campus from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to sanitize high-touch and high-traffic areas.

The Budd Group provides weekly misting services from a machine that dispenses CDC-approved disinfectant to all surface areas and buses. The Budd Group provides continue to monitor and make recommendations based on the CDC guidelines to keep our community safe.



Faculty and staff have received training prior to the start of school specifically focused on cleaning and health guidelines, as well as continued technology training that will enhance delivery of remote teaching and learning.



Clear, age-appropriate signage has been placed on campus to assist in foot-traffic flow, physical distancing, and reminders for face coverings and hand hygiene.



Should a community member test positive or demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19, we will follow an established set of protocols influenced by the CDC and the NCDHHS regarding notification and contact-tracing. (See pages 11 & 12).



To mitigate the risks to our community, campus access for all visitors, including parents, will be strictly limited by appointment only or to pick up sick children.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

In a community where hugs and high fives are freely given, this is a time where genuine affection is demonstrated by not touching each other. Our students and teachers will show other forms of encouragement while maintaining physical distance.



In classroom spaces, per guidelines from the AAP for educational institutions, students will be distanced at a minimum of three feet and up to six feet or more apart.



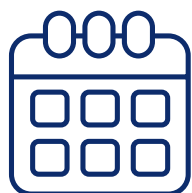
There are new opportunities for outdoor classrooms with the addition of tents on campus and the use of existing spaces such as the amphitheater, stadium seating and athletic field.



Foot-traffic flow has been modified as necessary to mitigate congestion in hallways, the dining hall and other high-traffic areas.



To comply with crowd limitations and physical distancing, many programs have been redesigned to include virtual options. For example, we will continue to offer spiritual life programming but will not have entire divisions meeting together in the chapel.



Schedules have been designed to allow for fewer cohorts and transitions in a given school day.



Lower School teachers have created location charts for student in the classroom, dining hall, chapel, and line order to better identify students proximity within classroom cohorts.

Middle and Upper School classes maintain a seating chart or photo of where students sit each period.



Virtual platforms will be utilized for parent events such as Cup of College, Friends meetings, Parents Nights, etc. to allow these events to be held at safe distances.



Field trips and large-group activities, including fine arts and athletic events, have been canceled, postponed or in many cases reimagined through the first trimester based on guidelines from the appropriate authorities.



Our dining partner, SAGE Dining, has planned and adapted their food preparation, service and menus to keep our community members as well as their team safe. A combination of boxed lunches and pre-packaged options will assure minimal contact. In addition to the dining hall, other spaces around campus are used during lunches while preserving their hallmark of providing variety.



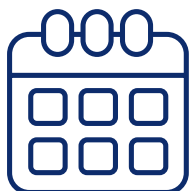
Visitation on campus will be limited by appointment only. As appropriate, appointments may be handled through alternate means such as email, phone calls, outside meetings or virtual meetings.



Pick up and drop off has incorporated protective measures such as face coverings and minimal contact. There are no changes to the carpool route.

ACADEMICS

In the midst of a still very active pandemic, we are planning every reasonable measure to mitigate risk. Additionally, we are committed to providing flexibility that will allow students and teachers who need or desire to self-quarantine for certain periods of time to participate in on-campus classes from home.



Daily schedules have been modified in order to reduce the number of contacts for students and faculty.

- Lower School students will remain with their class cohort throughout the day. Enrichment classes are still offered, with most teachers visiting the classroom. The schedule will also include time for outside activities including lunch, art and physical activity.
- Middle and Upper School students will have three 110-minute academic periods per day (two on Wednesdays), similar to the schedule that was used in the spring of 2020, preserving the total amount of class time from our standard daily schedule.
 - A typical Middle School academic period will often consist of three segments of learning and two breaks within the 110 minutes.
 - A typical Upper School academic period will often consist of two segments of learning and one break within the 110 minutes.
 - Additional training for our faculty has been provided on how to make the most of extended periods within their particular subject area.
 - This schedule allows for fewer transitions between classes, and teachers will minimize foot-traffic by staggering the release of students from classrooms.
 - Lengthening class periods keeps the campus in a settled state for more of the day, limiting commotion and lowering overall stress levels.
 - 110-minute classes also offer increased opportunities for real-time 1:1 feedback between the students and teachers within the class period.
 - This daily schedule will be much easier to navigate for students or faculty who may need to join their classes remotely for a period of time.
 - It also provides a smooth transition if a return to the distance learning model becomes necessary for an entire division or more throughout the year.

COMMUNITY: WHAT'S NOT CHANGING

While classes this year may not look the same, we remain committed to the mission of developing the whole student and preparing them for college and life. Students can expect the same level of commitment from the school towards the development of their faith, the shaping of their virtue and the academic excellence they have always received.



Faculty members received training in May on ways to re-examine their class lessons to accommodate the new schedule and better benefit online learners. Additional training occurred during Faculty Forum in August.



Large-group gatherings, like weekly assemblies, will continue in a virtual format using Microsoft® Teams and recorded options.



Students need physical activity during the day, and we are committed to continuing PE classes, with a focus on skills and activities that inherently incorporate physical distancing.

Middle School students will not be required to dress out for PE class, but may do so if they desire.



St. David's has made a major investment in technology to enable students to participate remotely in all of their live classes being held on campus. This classroom technology will enhance both in-class and online learning. Teacher training for the new systems took place during Faculty Forum in August.



COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMING



After-School Care began on August 24 with modifications, including reduced numbers, to meet distancing requirements of the school and state. Requests for drop-in attendance should be made by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to allow for appropriate planning time for the After-School Care director.



St. David's is offering sports programming for our middle and upper school athletes. We are following our governing body, the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA), and the diligence taken to safely allow sports to happen for independent schools across the state. An important aspect of how competitions can occur is to comply with the decision made by the NCISAA not to permit parents, fans, or spectators to attend home or away athletic events at this current time. Our top priority is the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and other gameday personnel.



Using guidelines from professional organizations* our fine arts faculty is examining meaningful ways to continue our arts curriculum. Performances will be adjusted to meet state and local restrictions as necessary.

* National Association for Music Education
American Choral Directors Association
National Federation of State High School Associations
High School Band Directors National Association



Our playground has been treated and cleaned thoroughly this summer and will continue to be cleaned as part of our routine practices. Per the CDC, playgrounds do not require disinfection as this is not proven to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Lower School students will still enjoy using this space as part of their schedule although visits will be limited to minimize crossover contact.

REVISIONING **COMMUNITY**: PRESERVING LONG-STANDING TRADITIONS

We recognize that grade-level field trips and campus events such as International Day, Veterans Day and the Lower School's Fun Run are key components of the St. David's experience. Every effort will be made to preserve these events, but they will look different this year.

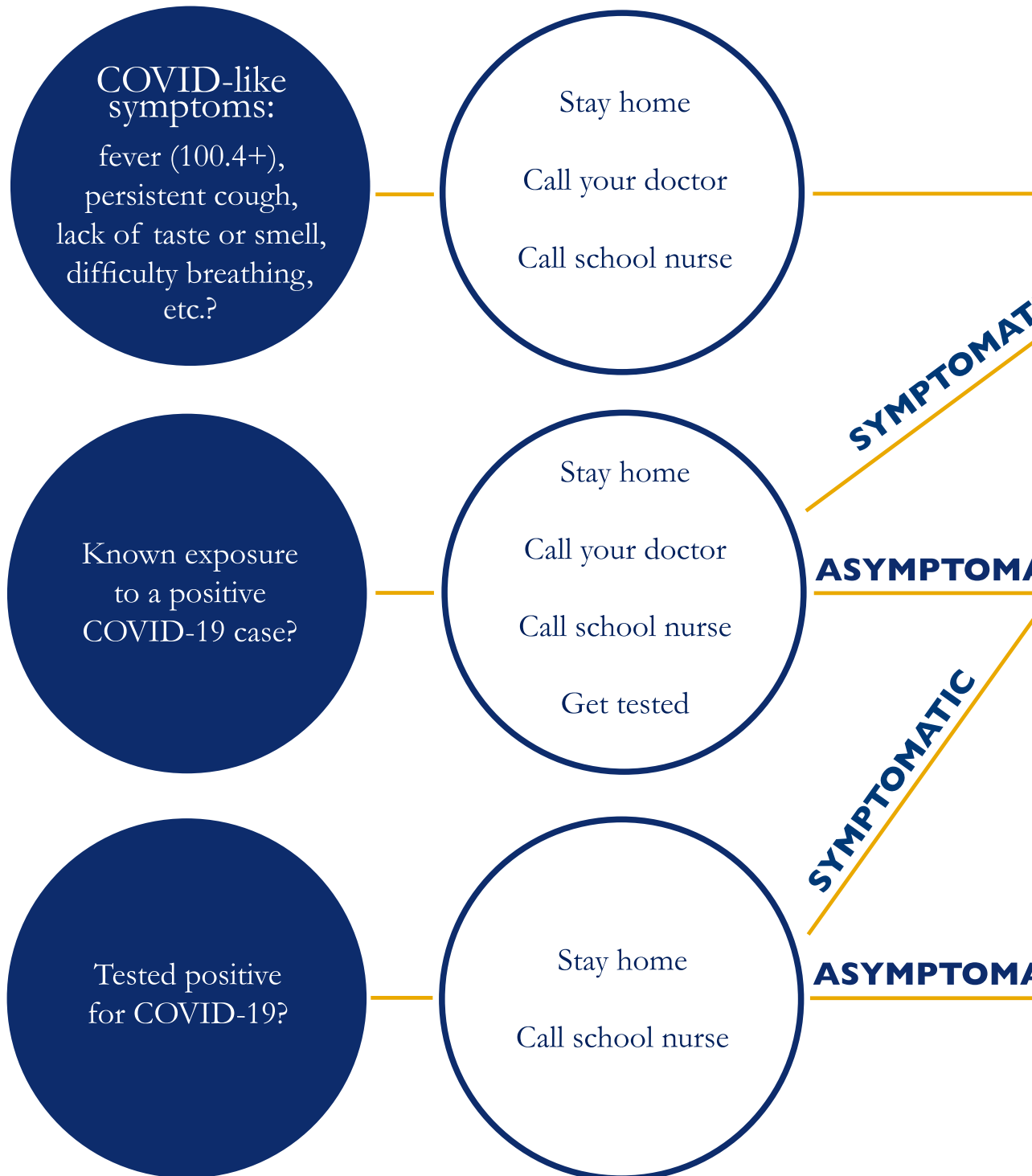


VIRUS MANAGEMENT & RETURNING TO CAMPUS

DAILY SELF ASSESSMENT: BEFORE COMING ON CAMPUS EACH PERSON SHOULD ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE CDC.

1. A temperature of 100.4 or higher? 2. Positive COVID-19 test result within the past 10 days? 3. Known exposure to someone with COVID-19 who is new or unexpected: chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, etc.?

“Known exposure” is defined as: being within six feet of someone with a positive COVID-19 case for more than 15 minutes.

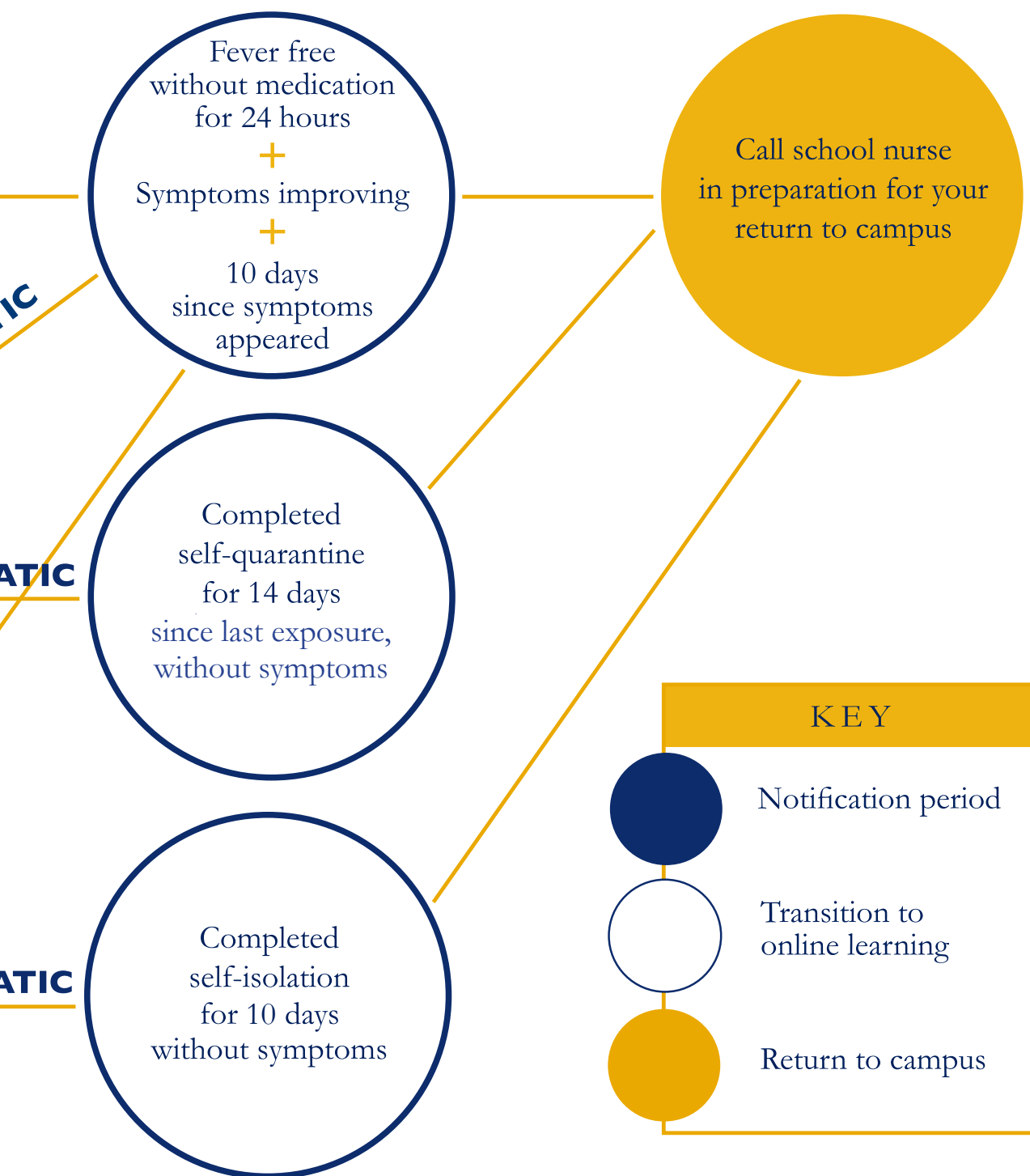


: PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

NEEDS TO ASK AND ANSWER YES OR NO TO THE FOLLOWING

within the past 14 days to a person with a positive COVID-19 test result? 4. One of the following symptoms that e throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea?

5 minutes.



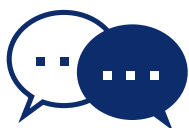
PREPARING FOR WHAT'S POSSIBLE

It is our goal to remain on campus and St. David's does not intend to move to distance learning as a division or school except under the following conditions:

1. A mandate by government officials with the authority to close independent private religious schools, at which time we would move to distance learning, making every effort to utilize the campus where permitted under necessary safety guidelines.
2. When 50% of a division is not on campus due to quarantine protocols, the division will move to distance learning for 14 days.



When a member of our school community tests positive for COVID-19 we will not automatically close the division or school. However, per the known exposure guidelines (see pages 11 & 12) we will be informing those with possible known exposure to make appropriate decisions and respect quarantine protocol.



Our online learning model allows for students and faculty to be off campus if needed while maintaining a meaningful connection with classmates, teachers and the curriculum.





Should a return to distance learning become necessary as directed by governing authorities, our online learning model ramps up quickly with improvements based upon parent and student feedback that we have recieved.

○ Lower School

- Increased synchronous learning through Microsoft Teams that follows the on-campus daily class schedule including live interaction with Enrichment faculty.
- Content will be presented in an atmosphere that allows for clarifying questions prior to and during assignment completion. These sessions will be recorded so students who cannot watch in real time may access the recorded version at a more convenient time.
- Assignments will be submitted electronically to remove the need for packet exchanges.
- We will continue to offer supplemental online academic sites for various grade levels.
- The popular extra help and socializing meetings on Teams will remain for the benefit of continuing the classroom community.
- Emails home will be streamlined and consistent. The format will be unified for the ease of families with multiple children. The principal will send one email containing all Enrichment teacher information to the grade levels.

○ Middle and Upper School

- Frequent and impactful 1:1 feedback for students from their teachers.
- Rich, independent/self-paced tasks that provide deep learning experiences beyond standard projects and classwork.
- Class discussion that invites all voices and perspectives into vibrant dialogue on a regular basis.
- Live and pre-recorded instruction continuing at the same level from a distance as it occurred in the classroom.
- Regular opportunities for students to foster meaningful connections with their peers.



FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY

Throughout the year, our employees and families are allowed to determine their own acceptable level of risk. Due to our investment of technology in every classroom, our blended learning program makes remote attendance a possibility when our community members may be at risk.



Students who need online learning will have access to classes, teachers and assignments through our Student Portal and Microsoft Teams. In addition, each classroom has been fitted with PLUS, technology that enables live video and audio connectivity so students can participate in daily class instruction.



Faculty will also be able to teach remotely using Microsoft Teams and the new classroom live video/audio technology. Should a faculty member have to teach from home, on-campus classrooms will be managed by a proctor, but class will be taught live by the faculty member until he/she can return.



Staff members who are able to perform their job responsibilities from home will be allowed to work remotely to help ease congestion on campus.





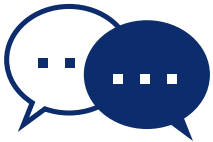
Each student's family is required to acknowledge and sign a **Community Commitment and COVID-19 Acknowledgement and Waiver**.



Our academic team held division-specific virtual information sessions per division. Questions from parents were submitted ahead of time to be covered.



Specific, age-appropriate student education sessions were held on the first day of school to inform students of changes to normal procedures this year. A recap email was sent to parents following these discussions.



Throughout the school year, we will continue our monthly "A Look Ahead" emails with information about upcoming events.



WELCOME
BACK
SDS
STUDENTS! 

we missed you
corby
brycen!!

SDS
Get
for a
2019-20



ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL

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