

MVCA Return & ReOpening: Our Plan for Fall 2020

In light of these unprecedented times facing our society and educational systems, MVCA remains as committed as ever to our mission to expand the kingdom by bringing children of God CLOSER through mind, body, and spirit” (Luke 2:52). We are focused on the well-being of our students as whole person, which includes their emotional, spiritual, and intellectual health as well as their physical health.

Every school or school district has been wrestling with how to proceed with school this coming fall with the varied, and sometimes conflicting reports about COVID-19. After a great deal of research, evaluation, prayer, and counsel, MVCA **will begin the school year on August 17th for all grades while following a stringent and appropriate safety protocol within the school environment.** This reopening plan describes that safety protocol as well as steps we will take if certain contingencies occur.

RATIONAL FOR REOPENING 5 DAYS A WEEK

Since March 2020, many studies have already been conducted into the physical and mental health of students, child abuse, academics, nutrition, childcare and the affect of school closings on the economy. The negative impact of COVID-19 in all areas studied compel us to consider how we can mitigate the short and long range damage of the virus to students and their education by opening our school in a cautious and safe manner, but with as much normalcy as possible for the well-being of our students. We will not take the time to cite the data and sources on those studies as they are plentiful and readily available on the internet.

Additionally, state and national data suggests that the transmission rate of COVID among grade school children is dramatically lower, or even non-existent in some areas. With our smaller school population, consultation with other private schools and public school districts, and governmental allowances, we believe we need to get students back in face-to-face learning, every day, for the full school year. This reopening plan will constantly be assessed for its usefulness by tracking the health of our students, seeking to discover more effective procedures, and through consistency in implementation.

As has always been the case throughout the COVID pandemic, situations or conditions could arise that could dramatically change our approach, namely new governmental mandates. For that reason, this plan will be as fluid as necessary for the health and safety of the MVCA family.

Return & ReOpen Principles

To ensure the wellbeing of all students and staff as well as to maintain a high level of confidence among our community, we will:

1. Prioritize the safety and wellbeing of students, staff, and community
2. Minimize the risk that someone becomes infected in the first place with rapid, comprehensive and aggressive quarantining
3. Consult with health officials regularly
4. Maximize the ability for contact tracing by ensuring we identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with individuals who have been infected.
5. Provide social distancing and reduced group size/capacity loads in each classroom and/or building, to the extent practicable
6. Conduct school as close to “normal” as possible to provide familiarity and stability for our students

7. Maximize sanitization, cleaning and disinfection of all areas and high touch points

Attendance

MVCA will adhere to our normal attendance policies but with a greater degree of grace and understanding as well as with the following caveats:

1. The attendance policy is temporarily flexed to encourage students and staff to stay home when sick or caring for sick family members without penalty to grades, enrollment status, or employment status concerns. Communication with the school office is imperative in these situations so we are always up-to-date on the situation.
2. All attendance-related awards and special recognition (such as perfect attendance) are suspended until further notice. It is imperative that students who are sick and should otherwise remain home do so rather than be incentivized to come to school in pursuit of that award. (We recognize the value of these accomplishments and will reinstitute them as soon as is appropriate for the wellbeing of the whole school community.)
3. We will develop on-line instructional standards to allow for quick and smooth transitions between in-person and remote learning. In the event of a move to virtual learning, strict educational protocols will be in place for both teachers and students. Regular tuition and fees will continue as scheduled.
4. We will make use of flexible calendar policies in case of temporary school closures due to COVID-19 governmental recommendations or mandates

*All enrolled families are required to **sign this contract** indicating they understand health and safety expectations under COVID-19 will be amplified and must be strictly followed.*

SICK STUDENTS & STAFF

1. DAILY mandatory health screenings will be used for all students and staff before entering school. This will include:
 - a. In-person temperature check, not to exceed 99.9 degrees
 - b. Questionnaire related to symptoms and contact with COVID-19 individuals.
2. School staff will record and track individual temperatures for 5 school days to establish a baseline.
3. A student exhibiting **any symptoms** while at school will be quarantined in the school until parents are able to pick up the student from school.
4. Prior to the first day of school, we will develop an informational campaign for identifying COVID-19 symptoms and contact-tracing.
5. School staff will monitor school attendance to watch for trends in symptoms/reasons for absences.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

1. Parents, guardians, family members, or other visitors will NOT be allowed past the entry unless reporting to the office for business. No visitors will be permitted to be in the instructional areas, classrooms, or other spaces except in case of emergencies.
2. Students will remain with their designated class throughout the day to prevent cross contamination. Middle school teachers will sanitize between classes.
3. Regular and thorough hand-washing will be taught and required frequently

4. Water fountains will be turned off. Each student should bring their own refillable or disposable water bottle from home (filled) and return home with it each afternoon. WATER only.
5. Contact tracing will be utilized as needed in the event of illness.
6. At this point, use of face masks are optional for students and staff during normal, routine activities.

Morning Arrival

7:00-7:30am

- 7:00am will be the earliest drop-off time (*this will be reviewed for 2nd semester*)
- Students arrive at the back FMC car line (5K-4th grade) or Chapel car line (5th-8th grades)
- Every student will be screened with temperature scan and questions each day.
- Upon entering the FMC gym or Chapel rec room, students will go immediately to the space assigned to their specific class, which will be spread out in order to socially distance
- Classes will be dismissed one at a time to go directly to their classroom at 7:30
- Students may read, color, or work on homework from their book bags. These items may not be shared.

7:30-7:45am

- Students will arrive at the appropriate carline and, after screening, go directly to their classrooms
- Parents of the students in the two 4K classes (Tankersley & Henderson) in the back hall will drop off their students at the single door to the right of the main glass doors labeled "NOT AN ENTRANCE. MVCA PARENTS PLEASE USE MAIN ENTRANCE." This is a semi-permanent solution for those two 4K classrooms.
- Mrs. McDaniel's 4K students will enter the normal daycare entrance.
- 5K parents will be allowed to drop off their students at the door nearest their classroom for the first two days of school only. On the 3rd day, they will enter the same gym door as all other students. These exterior, 5K 'back' doors will not be open any other time during the year for drop off or pick up.

Space Usage & Operations

1. To the extent possible, we will minimize the number of students and staff each individual interacts with during the course of the school day.
2. Students shall not change from one group to another (as practicable).
3. Groups shall be in a separate room/programming area and shall not mix with each other (as practicable).
4. Staff shall remain solely with one group of children throughout the course of the day (as practicable).
5. If children rotate from one space to another, the room and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized prior to having another group.
6. Reduce the number of shared items. Students will be expected to have their own school supplies and these will be kept individually in their desk, backpack, cubby or other container.
7. Shared supplies and equipment will be used by one group of students at a time and then will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
8. To the extent possible, social distancing will be observed.

9. Every student (grades 1-8) should bring hand sanitizer for their desk. 4K and 5K teachers will dispense hand sanitizer to students frequently. Additional sanitizing stations will be located in commons areas around the building.
10. Additional cleaning and decontamination will occur in learning spaces throughout the day.
11. Doors will be propped open to reduce touch as is allowable by fire marshal.

‘Specials’ Safety Measures

- **Lunch** (5K-4th grade) will be held in each classroom; 5th-8th grades will socially distance in the rec room. Microwaves may be available in classrooms.
- **Recess** times will be staggered by class to prevent cross contamination. Sanitize before entering the playground or gym. Wash hands thoroughly after recess.
- **Indoor recess and P.E.:** Each class will have their own set of toys (balls, jump ropes, etc) to be kept in a tub and sanitized after use.
- **Chapel** (4K-8th grade) will be suspended until we can determine that it can be done safely
- **Music / Drama / Art** (5K-5th grade) will be suspended until it is determined that it can be done safely
- **Keyboarding** (6th-8th) will be 1st semester.
- **P.E.** (6th-8th) will be 2nd semester

After-School & Dismissal

5K-4th grade

- Carline pickup at 2:45 in the back of the gym. Students being picked up in car line will be dismissed to the gym where they will sit in their designated class location. Parents are asked to attach their student’s names in large print to the passenger visor and fold it down until our staff learns kids’/parents’ cars. Staff will call students to exit the gym and catch their ride.
- Students remaining in after-school care will stay in their classrooms where they will be supervised until pick up.
- Parents of after-school care students should call the school office when they arrive for their student to be escorted to the door.
- Back hall students—2nd through 4th grade will be picked up at the gym door (normal car line entrance). Front hall students—5K through 1st grade will be picked up at the front of the FMC (main entrance to the building). Separate entrances will help prevent cross-contamination.

5th-8th grade

- Carline pickup at 2:45 in front of the Chapel. Students being picked up in car line will be dismissed to the rec area where they will wait for their ride. Parents are asked to attach their student’s names in large print to the passenger visor and fold it down until our staff learns kids’/parents’ cars.
- After-school students: parents should text their child or the supervisor to release student to come to the car.

We understand that opening at 7:00am rather than 6:30am, and closing at 5:30pm rather than 6:00pm creates a significant hardship for a few of our valued families. Because we strive to keep your children safe and free from cross-contamination, it is not financially feasible for the school or parents to pay individual workers for every classroom in order to keep all children from different classes separated from each other. MVCA & Daycare is working to keep your costs low while we have seen a tremendous increase in staff, faculty, janitorial and PPE

equipment expenses. We will review the time changes periodically and hope to change back to our previous hours after Christmas break, if not sooner.

SOURCES

- MVCA Employee Handbook
- cdc.gov
- Columbia County School District Return to School Plan
- North Georgia Christian Academy Re-opening Health and Safety Plan
- Resurrection Christian School Biosecurity Proposal
- Aiken County Public School District Back 2 School Safely Plan

I have read all of the above and agree to the conditions and requirements stated in the MVCA Return & ReOpen Plan.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I will not medicate my child before sending them to school which could jeopardize the safety of others and the operation of the school.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Midland Valley Christian Academy

Health and Safety Verification

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Yes / No 1. Has your child had an undiagnosed fever or cough in the past 2 weeks?

Yes / No 2. Has your child/family member been around a suspected COVID-19 patient or a known COVID-19 patient in the past 2 weeks?

Yes / No 3. Has your child/family member been around anyone with an undiagnosed fever in the past 2 weeks?

Please check one of the following:

If you answered yes to questions 1-3, children should wait 2 weeks before returning to the Center and be symptom free.

I will inform the Office of any changes regarding any of the above information

I attest that the above information is true, to the best of my knowledge.

Yes / No I have read and understand MVCA's Parent Protocol and Policies for Return for the reopening of the childcare center on August, 2020.

I understand that returning my child to Midland Valley Christian Academy is a health risk for all involved. I understand that it is vitally important to follow the Parent Protocol and Policies for Return. I understand that Midland Valley Christian Academy is working diligently to ensure safety to children, parents and staff.

I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my (child's) participation at Midland Valley Christian Academy. I willingly agree to comply with the Parent Protocol and Policies for Return. I HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS MIDLAND VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WITH RESPECT TO MYSELF, CHILD, OR FAMILY MEMBER CONTRACTING THE COVID-19 VIRUS.

Parent/Guardian

Signature _____

(**signature must be in the presence of a Notary**)

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County & State/Province this

_____ day of _____, 20_____

Day Month Year

State/Province: South Carolina County: Aiken

Notary Public Signature: _____ My Commission Expires: _____