

FROM OUR HEADMASTER, DR. WOODS



There are a handful of key takeaways from the past quarter at Veritas. God's kind mercies are ever abundant and we begin by offering praise and thanksgiving. We also saw some wonderful changes at VCA. The opening of C.S. Lewis Hall with the warm elegant beautification, and the renaming of the major halls to reflect our commitment to Christian Classical education. Our Kingdom mission has been reaffirmed and we are committed to being the premiere Classical Christian school in this part of the country. We seek to offer a "one of a kind" formative education that truly glorifies God and blesses the entire Veritas community. We are working together to ensure even clearer policies and procedures while we navigate the national health situation. While many other schools remain online, we deeply desire to offer the education we do onsite for those who desire this option. Please continue to join me in prayer as we wisely move forward and as we seek the care of the Lord.

FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE, MRS. WACK



As we begin our second quarter of the year, I continue to lean into God's goodness and faithfulness with a heart of gratitude that He has blessed our efforts to have live and in-person instruction. Throughout these past nine weeks, we have had several colds, sinus infections, ear infections and strep throat and over 25 students and faculty testing negative for Covid. I would not have been able to navigate this without great effort of communication put forward by each of you. It is our desire to stay the course for this school year with procedures in place that will minimize exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 within our school community. With that said, contingency plans are in place in the event more stringent measures must be taken to keep our community safe and our school operational, including the move to virtual learning. Remember, it is our priority to keep school open and children learning in their classrooms. We must remember and live accordingly that the Lord is with us and He is for us. Praise God!

OPERATIONAL PLAN¹

I. The Dynamic Nature of this Plan

We are so thankful for a successful first quarter and for your diligence to keep our VCA community healthy. Much prayer, thought, consultation and attention was given in the beginning of the year and this is ongoing for our school. CoVID-19 remains a moving target and this will continue to reflect in our procedure plan. You will be notified directly through email of any substantive change in this plan or updated .

II. Physical Spacing for Social Distancing

Time and distance prove to be what helps to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. Although this has proved challenging for all of us, we will continue to encourage distancing of our faculty and students.

- High traffic areas of campus have been revamped to draw the flow of traffic to larger, more open areas of campus, and select doors will be designated as one-way (excluding times when emergency exiting is needed).
- Floor markings are provided in waiting and reception areas, as well as classrooms or other locations where lines may form.
- Where feasible, classroom desks will be arranged in such a way that students are separated from one another by 6 ft, are seated facing the same direction, and/or have physical barriers between students.
- Where feasible, students will be kept in smaller cohort groups that stay together as much as possible during the day, limiting the mixing of these groups.
- Additional staff will be monitoring high traffic areas during arrival and dismissal to ensure students go straight from their cars to their classrooms in the morning and from their classrooms to their cars in the afternoons.
- Nonessential visitors and activities involving large groups of people, including assemblies and field trips will be examined closely for cancellations or altered in such a way to allow for social distancing.

III. General Policies for Health and Safety

We've learned a lot over the last couple months. General health and safety depend on not only what we practice here at the school, but also what we practice from home. Continue to stay home with symptoms and communicate when direction is needed. While at school, we will continue to follow these guidelines:

¹ This plan has been created using the CDC Readiness and Planning Tool and the Strong School NC Toolkit as references. While VCA is not bound to follow every aspect of either document, both were used to determine best practices in regards to the safety of our students, families, faculty and staff.

A. Face Coverings

We've learned a lot over the last couple months. General health and safety depend on not only what we practice here at the school, but also what we practice from home. Continue to stay home with symptoms and communicate when direction is needed. While at school, we will continue to follow these guidelines: With this in mind, we will continue to require the use of face coverings for faculty, staff, students, and those visiting campus. As such, the administration reserves the right to veto the design of any face covering that is deemed in conflict with the decorum of a classical christian school. Below are key requirements and notes regarding the use of face coverings:

- All students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear face coverings throughout their entire day when indoors, unless in a situation where a face covering is not required (see exceptions below). Parents who wish for their child to wear a face covering during the entirety of their day may make that request known to the classroom teacher.
- If any of the following applies, wearing a face covering will not be required:
 - A faculty/staff member is working in an office alone.
 - A faculty or student is outdoors and distanced from others.
 - A person has a medical or behavioral condition that prohibits the use of a face covering (requires documentation from a professional).
 - A person is actively exercising.
 - A person is eating or drinking.
 - A person is communicating with someone who is hearing impaired.

The use of face coverings extends to any transportation provided by the school.

- We recognize that some individuals find the use of a face covering cumbersome and uncomfortable. While these are not excusable reasons to be without a face covering, it is our goal to be attentive to this and provide ample opportunities for students to be outdoors or in a space where coverings can be temporarily removed.
- Face coverings should be routinely laundered at home using hot water and a high heat dryer.
- Disposable face coverings will be provided for visitors, students and faculty/staff who forgot theirs at home, prior to entering the building.

B. Cleaning and Hygiene

We are learning more that COVID-19 is spread primarily through airborne transmission. However, proper cleaning and hygiene can go a long way in minimizing exposure to other communicable illnesses and the overall wellness of our school. We will continue to implement the following:

- Attention has been given to provide additional and more effective supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors.

- ❑ Our school nurse will address students, faculty, staff, and families with best practices for proper cleaning and hygiene.
 - ❑ Handwashing will be a highlighted aspect of our day and will be reinforced during key times such as before and after eating, after using the restroom, after blowing a nose, coughing or sneezing, after touching objects that have been handled by other individuals, etc.
 - ❑ Increased supervision will be provided to monitor proper hygiene.
 - ❑ Attention will be given to providing time between activities to allow for proper cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces.
- ❑ Hand sanitizers will be provided at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, gym, and in every classroom.
- ❑ Students' personal items will be kept separate from one another in cubbies or lockers, and sharing of personal items and supplies will be limited.
- ❑ Our janitorial staff has established a schedule for ongoing and routine cleaning using approved disinfectants.

C. Monitoring for Symptoms

Conducting regular health screenings can help reduce exposure. While faculty and staff have always been attentive to the health of our students, special attention will be given to the symptoms that are typically associated with COVID-19. Any person testing positive for or showing COVID-19 symptoms may not come to school until cleared.

- ❑ Upon arrival, every student/faculty must have a temperature check daily and have attested to the *Parent/Faculty Commitment* at the end of this document entering into an agreement with the school that persons will remain home if they display symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- ❑ Outside visitors (including parents) will be required to have a temperature check and daily symptom screening before entering the building.
- ❑ Any person with a temperature measuring 100.4 °F or greater may not enter the building, or if already at school, must return home.

D. Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19

As we head into winter months, it may become challenging to discern possible COVID-19 symptoms from other common viruses and sickness. The most important part for parents and staff is to remain home when in question and allow a physician to determine the next step. In addition, faculty will be monitoring students closely for any concerning potential symptoms. Should we become aware of a positive COVID-19 individual while at school or the suspicion of an individual, they following guidelines are:

- ❑ Symptomatic individuals will be isolated and sent home.
 - ❑ Symptomatic individuals must wear a face covering while isolated unless exempt, and will remain under visual supervision by a

faculty/staff member who remains 6 ft away and wears personal, protective equipment.

- ❑ Cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented following any suspected, presumptive or confirmed positive cases.
- ❑ Returning to school:
 - ❑ Following a negative COVID-19 test (PCR if indicated by provider), a person can return to school once there is no fever without using fever-reducing medicines for 24 hours.
 - ❑ Following a confirmed positive COVID-19 test (whether lab confirmed or physician evaluated) or displaying COVID-19 symptoms, a person can return to school when ALL of the following criteria is met:
 - ❑ It has been at least 10 days since first manifesting symptoms.
 - ❑ It has been at least 3 days since having a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
 - ❑ It has been at least 3 days since symptoms have improved.
 - ❑ If a student/employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school for 10 days following their first positive COVID-19 test, assuming they have not since developed symptoms.
 - ❑ If a student/employee has been determined to have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for 10 days since the last date of exposure, or 7 days following a negative test result. An individual that has tested positive in the last 90 days **does not** have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.
 - ❑ If a student/faculty is in the same household of someone symptomatic and/or waiting on the results of a Covid-19 PCR test, they must remain home until test results confirm negative results. If results are determined to be positive, family members in this household must remain home for 10 days starting on the 10th day of the start of symptoms from the infected individual.
 - ❑ If you have had full vaccination for Covid-19 and you don't have any symptoms post exposure, you do not have to quarantine.
 - ❑ If you have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days of exposure and you do not have any symptoms, you do not have to quarantine.
 - ❑ A person can return to school, following normal school policy, if they receive confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider explaining the COVID-19 symptoms.
 - ❑ Local health authorities will be notified immediately of confirmed COVID-19 cases among students, faculty, and staff.
 - ❑ If a person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has been in the

school setting, all families, faculty and staff will be notified immediately while maintaining required confidentiality. The administration will assess the situation to determine if a partial or short-term closure² is necessary for extensive cleaning.

- Remote learning options will be provided for students unable to be at school due to COVID-19 related illness or exposure.
- No awards or recognition will be given to students, faculty or staff related to attendance during the 2020-2021 school year.

E. Food Service

It is our intention to continue to offer the Hot Lunch program. Food serving and seating will be modified. See below some precautions in place for our hot lunch service:

- Self-service food distribution will be discontinued until further notice.
- Single-use disposable food service items will be used (plates and utensils).
- Meals and/or snacks provided by the school will be individually wrapped or packaged and given directly to the student. Cafeteria will be utilized on a rotating schedule during inclement weather. Students will be spaced appropriately and will be limited to one class or grade at a time.

F. Water and Ventilation Systems

We have taken steps to ensure that all water and ventilation systems and features are safe for use. Measures have been taken to ensure that all ventilation systems are set to maximize circulation of fresh outdoor air. Water fountains are taped off and not used during this time. Touchless refillable water is available for students during the school day with supervision.

G. Additional Considerations

Our school nurse, Monique Wack, continues to be our designated COVID-19 point of contact. She collaborates with NCDHHS and regional school nurse consultants to remain up to date with updates and community trends. She can be contacted at 681-0546 X312 or [@mwack@veritasnc.org](mailto:mwack@veritasnc.org).

IV. Contingency Plans (See Above)

V. Resources

² Any closure of school is a last resort. Families are encouraged to have a short-term plan in place in the event a portion or the entire school has to close for a few days.

1. [CDC Readiness and Planning Tool](#)
2. [Strong Schools NC: Public Health Toolkit](#)
3. [NC Department of Health and Human Services](#)
4. [CDC Coping with Stress](#)

VERITAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SYMPTOM SCREENING

Parent Commitment

Please complete this and bring it with you the first day of school.

Family Last Name:

Student First Name(s):

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

By signing this document, you agree that you will be attentive to the following symptoms typically associated with COVID-19 and will not knowingly send your child(ren) to school or to a school sponsored event on any day of the 2020-2021 academic school year if any of the following statements are true:

- My child(ren) currently has COVID-19.
- My child(ren) has had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 10 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- My child(ren) is under current orders from a health authority to be in quarantine.
- My child currently has any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Atypical shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New cough
 - New loss of taste or smell

Parent First Name: _____ Parent Last Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

VERITAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SYMPTOM SCREENING

Faculty/Staff Commitment

Please complete this and bring it with you to orientation.

Last Name:

First Name:

By signing this document, you agree that you will be attentive to the following symptoms typically associated with COVID-19 and will not knowingly come to school or to a school sponsored event on any day of the 2020-2021 academic school year if any of the following statements are true:

- You currently have COVID-19.
- You have had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 10 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- You are under current orders from a health authority to be in quarantine.
- You currently have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Atypical shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New cough
 - New loss of taste or smell

Signature: _____

Date: _____