



## Return to School Plan

2020-2021

### **Mission Statement:**

At MLC, we desire to see God glorified by passionate disciples of Jesus Christ, driven by a desire to grow in wisdom and understanding; able to take the Truth revealed in God's Word and His creation into any discipline, confidently engaging others with love and discernment.

---

**Table of Contents:**

Introduction	pg 3
Education Plans	pg 4
Health and Hygiene	pg 5
School Operations and Facilities	pg 7
Appendix:	pg 9
• Parent Commitment Letter	
• Parent Waiver Form	
• Daily Health Assessment Agreement	

---

## Introduction

MLC Family,

We trust you and your family have been rooted in Christ during our summer break. As we look back on the last 6 months, we are reminded of God's goodness and grace even during uncertain and challenging times. Scripture confirms for us that our God is sovereign and has all things in His hands!

We look forward to welcoming your student(s) back to school for in-person education on September 1st.

Our prayer is that all of us navigate these challenges in ways that demonstrate our faith in Jesus Christ. In the midst of many different thoughts and opinions about current circumstances, we have an opportunity to demonstrate unity in our faith that transcends earthly trials.

Our Return to School Plan was developed after carefully considering the issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic while still prioritizing our mission statement to deliver quality Christian education. We intend to keep your students coming to our campus for the full 20-21 school year. Our strong intention comes with a commitment to stay in contact with local medical officials to be fully informed about local health information. The plan outlined below has been designed with the guidance of elected school board members, educators, local medical professionals, state and national health guidance, and other Christian schools, with the intent to provide a basic path for us to follow as we begin our school year.

There are unavoidable risks in gathering many students into a school building. MLC intends to take measures to lower the risks involved with COVID19, but we acknowledge that we will not be able to eliminate them. Current data is telling us that children are largely unaffected by COVID-19. We are also praying for clearer data on children's ability to transmit the virus. In addition, we want to be mindful of our faculty and staff in the building each day, as well as at-risk family members that may be close to our students. Please be gracious and patient with us as we attempt to make decisions that take all these things into consideration.

Our final emphasis is on the importance of *parent commitment* to monitoring the health and symptoms of your child(ren) on a daily basis. Our school needs all parents to commit to the inconvenience of keeping your child home when sick. In the following plan, you will find our request for parents to commit to identifying symptoms, and to keep children home in situations where a student's health is uncertain.

You'll find the details of our plan below. We will closely monitor the lifting of the Governor's guidelines. We welcome your questions, concerns or input as we continue to plan for the school year ahead; a year that our God already has in His hands.

MLC Board of Directors  
Jonathan Belgarde - Head of School

---

---

## Education Plans

### **On-Campus, In Person Learning: Implemented on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

Full on-campus learning will take place as regularly scheduled and planned. Students, faculty and staff will renew an emphasis on healthy hygiene throughout the day. Every classroom is being provided with spray disinfectant which can be used to clean highly touched surfaces on a regular basis. To limit sharing of classroom items, each student will bring their own set of supplies. Water fountains will be cleaned regularly. Students will be strongly encouraged to bring water bottles from home. Every effort will be made to maintain social distancing whenever possible. This applies to cohorts (classes/combination classes) in classrooms, lunchroom and at lockers. Homerooms will be assigned to each staff member to encourage social distancing.

### **Distance Learning:**

**Used only if overwhelming evidence of a school or local outbreak, along with communication with local hospitals, demonstrates that distance learning is required for a time on behalf of our school/local community.**

School wide, full-time distance learning would only occur if a local or school outbreak happens that clearly demonstrates the need for building closure, student quarantine and facility sanitation.

If this occurs, MLC will implement Distance Learning for as little time as possible, OR simply take some days off. The option that provides the best platform and consistency for education for all of our students would be implemented. MLC will be in close contact with local medical professionals to determine if/when this would be necessary.

If Distance Learning is implemented for a short time, assessment and grading will continue. Daily attendance will be expected and recorded unless a student is too ill to participate.

---

## Health and Hygiene Emphasis

**Handwashing:** Regular handwashing is known to be one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and preventing the spread of germs to others. Students will be encouraged to wash hands appropriately throughout the day.

**Sanitizer:** While thorough handwashing with soap and water is the recommended choice for preventing the spread of germs, we realize that access to this may not always be available. MLC is providing every classroom with hand sanitizer.

**Student Health:** Parents, students, and staff should be familiar with Covid-19 symptoms (refer to CDC guidelines for the most up to date list of symptoms). Current symptoms include: a. Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills

- b. Cough
- c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- d. Fatigue
- e. Muscle or body aches
- f. Headache
- g. New loss of taste or smell
- h. Sore throat
- i. Congestion or runny nose
- j. Nausea or vomiting
- k. Diarrhea

We understand that some of these symptoms may be a normal part of your child's life. You know your child the best, so we ask that you monitor symptoms appropriately while being mindful of our parent commitment form.

### When should my child(ren) stay home?

- Student temperatures will be routinely taken.
- Staff members will routinely monitor their own temperatures.
- When a student's temperature registers 100.4 or more, the student will be kept in the office and parents will be asked to pick up the student.
- Parents will be asked to help the school by monitoring their children's symptoms at home and keeping children home if any flu-like (COVID) symptoms are noticed.
- Refer to Appendix A at the end of this document for recommendations for families to determine when a student and household family member should be kept home.

### Protocol for Positive COVID-19 Cases:

- If a student/teacher tests positive for COVID-19, we will participate with local and state Health Departments. We will be in close communication with the individual, family if necessary, and possible infected individuals to ensure the safety and health of everyone at the school.
- Any student or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed\* to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, will be allowed to return to campus based on the MN Department of Health Decision Tree.
  - \* Exposure is defined as having been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began showing symptoms until the time the individual was isolated.

---

## Face Coverings

- All students at MLC will be provided with a face covering.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering when outside of their cohorts. • Personal face coverings brought to school must have appropriate imaging. • When walking in or exiting the MLC building, students are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.
- Face coverings are required, per our local Health Department, while students are passing through the lunch line.
- Parents/Guardians need to email the office or provide a written note if your student is claiming an exemption according to the criteria stated in the Governor's mandate. According to HIPPA you do not need to give us the reason, just that you are claiming an exemption for your child.

**Face covering regulations will be frequently evaluated as we stay up to date on state mandates, protocol for positive cases, the latest medical research, and our own experiences in the school setting.**

## Other considerations:

- Every staff and faculty member is willing to accomplish their call of teaching in our school building. We are grateful for that blessing, and their willingness.
- We believe we can navigate this complex issue through parent partnership, respect for authority, love and care for our neighbor, and common-sense implementation.

---

## School Operations & Facilities

### Attendance

We are aware that our request for close monitoring of symptoms and illness may result in a higher number of students absences. However, we also want to guard against absence policy abuse. We are ready to be flexible as we approach each individual absence, knowing that we may be dealing with circumstances we haven't experienced before.

We do intend to follow our absence policy, while being mindful of our request for parent commitment to keeping students home when sick or symptomatic.

When calculating absences that result from health concerns, days missed due to each health concern event (exposure, symptoms, etc.), will be considered one day of absence. Again, we ask for parent partnership and integrity when working with the school on attendance policy.

### Recess (K-6):

- We believe play and social interaction is a crucial part of our day and of child development.
- Outdoor spaces significantly minimize probability of transmission. Therefore, we intend to proceed with recess in our normal routine to begin the year.
- Recess will be executed with reminders to students about good hygiene, encouragement for activities that involve space, and hand washing. If need be, our school would have the flexibility to use cafeteria or gym space to implement "cohort" recess strategies.

### Hot Lunch:

- All students and staff will wear a face covering when walking through the lunch service area.
- Students not needing the lunch service area will enter through the gym.
- Teachers will be available to go to the lunch service area to get what is needed for students.
- Teachers will be giving grades K-6 cartons of milk.
- All kitchen servers/workers will be wearing face coverings and gloves while in the kitchen and serving area.
- Cohorts will be socially distanced in the lunchroom.
- All snacks will be individually packaged and brought by students.
- Open salad bar will not be available until further notice.
- The communal water thermos will not be used in the lunchroom this year. Students will be asked to provide their own water bottles for use at school.
- Students will sit in cohorts at assigned tables.
- Condiments are being individually packaged.
- Silverware and napkins will be individually wrapped and given to students.
- Social distancing will be practiced in the lunch service line and room.
- Elementary teachers will sanitize tables after their class finishes eating.

---

**Visitors**

Our offices will be open for visitors. Face coverings will be available in the office for all visitors. A barrier will be placed across the hall near the main entrance to ensure that ALL visitors must walk through the office when entering.

**Bussing**

Students' temperatures will be routinely taken before entering the bus. If a student's temperature is 100.4 degrees or above, they will not be allowed to ride. Family members will be seated together. On arrival at MLC, students are strongly encouraged to go to their lockers and then to their classrooms without loitering in the hall.



---

## **Appendix:**

- Parent Commitment Letter
- Parent Waiver Form
- Daily Health Assessment Agreement