



NORTH MOBILE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A Ministry of REDEMPTIONCHURCH

1255 Industrial Parkway, Saraland, AL 36571

www.northmobilechristian.org

April 1, 2020

Dear Crusader families:

Thank you for your patience as I developed, prayed over, and finalized decisions concerning childcare at NMCS for next week and beyond.

We are all aware that Governor Ivey released information last week that made sure school doors were closed to help with social distancing. In the same release, she stated that daycare centers were able to stay open as long as they altered their population to have no more than 12 students in a room at one time. Upon reading this, I began to speak with our leadership team and the leaders in our church to try to make a wise decision for our families.

When we initially closed the school nearly two weeks ago, the plan I wrote into the letter said that we would potentially be opening for childcare during the week of Spring Break. That plan is still taking place - school will be on Spring Break next week, and the daycare will be open starting Monday, April 6th at 6:30 AM.

Please understand that NMCS K2 through K4 is daycare, and though we have rigorous (age-appropriate) content for our students, there will be no teaching at those grade levels. The school itself will still be enacting our Distance Learning model after through at least April 17th. For legal and health reasons, the daycare and the school are separate entities. So, students will not be "in school," but instead at daycare. If the childcare can be offered for the rest of April, but health agencies don't allow our type of business (classified as "under 500 members") to open, daycare would be available, and Distance Learning would be taking place at the same time.

NMCS is offering daycare under the following guidelines.

NMCS DAYCARE

1. Parents must register weekly for daycare (registration email link to be sent weekly, starting tonight)
2. A release form (to be emailed to the registered families) must be signed
3. We have a limited amount of space we can fill due to the Governor's limitation on class populations
4. NO STUDENTS who are not on NMCS's current roster will be allowed to register
 - Alabama will allow 12 children per class, but NMCS Daycare will only allow ten at a time based on our room sizes – to be overly cautious

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- NMCS will prioritize families of First Responders, medical workers, those families who would face a change in employment if they CANNOT get childcare
 - Allowable age ranges – K2 through K4 will also be prioritized as they are “daycare”; 1st through 8th grades are allowable, as well
 - Within these guidelines, care will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis

5. STUDENTS MUST NOT BE ILL IN ANY WAY WHILE IN ATTENDANCE

6. Your child’s teacher may not be the person who will be caring for your child
7. There is a behavioral expectation which will be reinforced - for example:
 - If a child bites more than one time, they will not be able to stay in childcare because of potential health hazards
 - Corporal punishment form does not strictly cover this childcare, so any discipline Mr. Reed administers will involve contacting parents, and repeat discipline referrals will forfeit childcare privilege
8. All bills and tuition must be paid and current to be considered/registered for daycare
9. The cost of daycare will not exceed \$25.00 per day
10. A stay-at-home or shelter-in-place proclamation will mean that childcare will no longer be available until the orders for that proclamation expire

We are obviously in uncharted waters. We are taking everything a week at a time. This plan is the best that prayer and leadership present to us at this time. We are trying to be intentional, thoughtful, and thorough. Classes will never gather together. They will still have a snack, outside time, lunch (sack lunches in rooms rather than going to the cafeteria) bathroom time, and their naps (if they take them) in the rooms they occupy for the day. We are going to have heightened cleanliness and hygiene protocols.

For anyone interested in this service, you will receive an email at 9:00 AM tomorrow with a link in it that leads to a registration document. Fill that out, and you will be contacted by one of NMCS’s office staff on Friday with your confirmation, receive an email with a waiver in it to sign, and further instructions.

God bless you all. I am praying with and for you!

In Christ,



Christopher Reed, Headmaster

Dear Crusader families,

Over the past 48 hours, your NMCS leadership team has been praying for wisdom in the face of this dynamic and unprecedented set of circumstances. Thank you for your patience while we have done this.

I know that earlier this afternoon, Saraland and Satsuma City School Systems altered their plans to stay open through Wednesday and opted to close Monday afternoon. Because of the density and size of their populations (each would be over the 500 person limit recommended by the Alabama Public Health Director) and factors such as student transportation, their decision to alter plans seems appropriate to limit liability and risk.

We are aware of the childcare burden that closing our school will place on many of you, no matter when that happens. For that reason and to introduce the plan for our distance learning initiative to as many of our students as possible, NMCS will remain open through the end of the day Wednesday as previously planned. Because of differences in our school population and transportation, our team believes that staying with our plan to close **Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00 PM** is still prudent.

Below are plans for the coming weeks:

- We will send home report cards Tuesday, and we ask that students take home textbooks for all core classes before dismissal on Wednesday.
- If you choose not to send your children to school Monday through Wednesday, their absences will be excused. If your child is or has been sick, they **must be** symptom-free for 24 hours before they can return to school.
- We will have teacher workdays on Thursday and Friday for deep cleaning and teacher training, and the school office will be open the week of March 23rd-27th from 9:00-12:00. You may come by and pick up your children's report cards and books on those days if they are not at school on Monday.

DISTANCE LEARNING

PRESCHOOL and 1st Grade

- For K3-1st Grade, we will be providing physical packets for pick-up.

ELEMENTARY and MIDDLE SCHOOL

- We are currently planning for two (2) weeks of digital distance learning.
 - We will be sending packets of student work home on Friday, March 20th and Friday, March 27th to be turned back in by the end of the following week.
 - Parents may choose between digital copies to be sent to emails or physical copies to pick up.
 - Paperwork will be sent home Monday, March 16th, which will outline all of the particulars.

RESOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

- **Monday, March 16th, NMCS will send home a questionnaire/survey to help parents assess their ability to participate fully in digital distance learning.**

TUITION

Parents have asked if tuition will be discounted in any way during this time. I understand from where their questions are coming. Our tuition (along with small sources of income such as profits from the cafeteria, vending machines and out-of-uniform days, etc.) is the only revenue stream that we utilize to pay our teachers and all of our bills. March's tuition has already been collected, and the expectation is that April's full tuition will be due during the first week of that month.

Because we are offering the educational services that we do, including the distance learning initiative we are developing for this crisis, we believe that we are supplying the comprehensive education service for which our families are paying. I do understand that this situation adds required childcare costs for many of our families. Unlike our public school neighbors, we will not have any governmental assistance during this time to help us recover any lost revenue, so we have to rely on the tuition as outlined in the Parent Contract that all of our families have signed to enroll their children in NMCS.

No late fees will be assessed for the April tuition as long as it is paid during the calendar month of April; however, I am asking ALL families who currently have outstanding balances due to please pay those before we come back to school after this extended break. Failure to do so may result in students not being able to attend NMCS after this absence.

SPRING BREAK

- **Spring Break is still scheduled for April 6th-10th.**
- We strongly urge you to remain at home and practice social distancing during our extended closure. If you choose to travel, please be aware of the current CDC travel recommendations by visiting cdc.gov. See a doctor and notify your principal if you have been exposed to infected persons or are exhibiting symptoms of the virus.
- At this time, we plan to resume school on Monday, April 13th, at which time we will begin our SATS. We will make you aware of any changes to that plan, should they occur.
- We have a plan in place to shift to at-home learning if the school remains closed beyond April 13th. That plan differs based on the age of your child, and we will send out more details at that time, if necessary. No before school care, after school care, or holiday care will be available at NMCS from March 19th-April 3rd. We will tentatively open our Day Care the week of our Spring Break if all relevant health organizations give clearance to do so. With these guidelines in place, we will continue to follow the school's established protocols on notifying parents and caring for your children should any student become ill and display any symptoms while at school.

It is essential that we DO NOT take this situation lightly, but that we DO trust our Father, God, and not give in to the fear and anxiety that can result from a situation such as this one. By relying on the guidance of our local, state, and federal healthcare experts and agencies, we can separate fact from rumor and make the most reasonable decisions moving forward. We will continue doing everything that we can to protect our students and our community. Thank you for trusting us with your most precious possessions, and pray that God will give us wisdom and courage as we seek to honor Him.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Email me at creed@northmobilechristian.org, and my cell phone is 251-689-8320. God bless you, Crusaders.

In Christ,



Christopher Reed,
Headmaster

P.S. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section will be added to our Facebook and Website if the need arises.

NMCS family,

Due to Governor Kay Ivey's declaration of a state of emergency and recommendations from health and educational agencies in the state of Alabama, NMCS will be making the following changes to our schedule:

- **As of now, NMCS is planning to be open through Wednesday, March 18th, at 6:00 PM for school and daycare.**
- Students will receive 3rd Quarter Report Cards next Tuesday or Wednesday.
- **NMCS is tentatively planning to close our campus to all school activities, including classes and daycare, from Thursday, March 19th through Sunday, April 5th, in accordance with local public school systems.**
- We plan on postponing our SAT testing until we are back on the school campus.

To best consider all the consequences of these changes, I will be taking time over the next 48 hours to speak with other local independent school leaders and determine the full scope of necessary adjustments and how to serve our students and families best.

If you have any questions, *please* email them to creed@northmobilechristian.org.

I plan to send a follow-up email answering frequently-asked parent questions and outlining more precise plans for the upcoming month this Sunday, March 15th after 5:00 PM.

The most important thing to remember during this time is to **trust the Lord**. We are a people of faith, not fear. He will see us through this.

In Christ,



Christopher Reed • Headmaster
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March 12, 2020

Dear Crusader families,

While we primarily concern ourselves with enriching the spiritual life and education of our students, the health and well-being of the North Mobile Christian School community of students, faculty, staff, and families are among our highest priorities. Because of this, the leadership of NMCS has been closely monitoring the emerging threat from the spread of the novel "COVID-19" Coronavirus (hereafter referred to as "Coronavirus"). At this time, we are not aware of any infected persons within any of the local Public or Independent school systems. We recognize that it may eventually affect our community and are taking precautions to plan for such an eventuality. The North Mobile Christian School leadership team and teachers are diligently praying, planning, and preparing for how we will best respond in our school context. We will continue to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and remain in close contact with other schools in the Mobile and Baldwin County areas.

There will necessarily be adjustments to some of the plans NMCS has made for this year. We have adopted/ revised the policy of our local public school system to fit our needs as it relates to school-sponsored travel. The policy is as follows:

All school-sponsored trips to locations having declared a "State of Emergency" due to the Coronavirus will be suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. All in-state field trips will be evaluated as a more defined picture emerges regarding the spread of the Coronavirus within Alabama. I will be in contact with teachers and parents regarding the possible cancellation of in-state field trips (most of which are scheduled in later-April).

Note: Potential rescheduling/refunding will be coordinated by the school representative who planned the original trip.

So that the school year remains as normal and unaffected as possible on campus, *we need everyone to do their part*. To best protect ourselves and each other, we are reminding you of a few recommendations we believe are essential for all Crusaders to follow. The most often-repeated directive from all involved health agencies concerning slowing/stopping the transmission of **any** airborne infectious agent (the classification of Coronavirus) is **to practice consistent, deliberate personal hygiene**. For this reason, we are encouraging diligence in adherence to the following recommendations for each group of the NMCS community:

All Staff, Faculty, and Students:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap after contact with people or high traffic areas for at least 20 seconds at a time;
- Avoid skin contact. While we love giving hugs, handshakes, and high-fives, try giving an elbow-bump, a big smile, or a friendly wave instead;
- If you need to cough or sneeze, cover your mouth with your sleeve at the bend of your arm or with a tissue. Be sure to discard any used tissues and wash your hands immediately after;
- Be sure to use the hand-sanitation stations posted around the campus, as well as in-class sanitation options;
- Stay home when you are sick, except to seek medical care (if displaying any signs of the Coronavirus, call the medical facility ahead of time to seek guidance before entering the facility).

Parents/Guardians:

- Do not send your child to school if they are ill (i.e., fever of 100 degrees or higher, frequent cough, diarrhea or vomiting);
- Teach proper cough/sneeze etiquette at home (cover cough/sneeze by coughing or sneezing in the bend of the inner arm or a tissue, if available, and then properly dispose of the tissue);
- Practice hand-washing for at least 20 seconds with your child (Recommendation: Sing the ABC song to time)

washing);

- Communicate with school personnel about any family illness or travel plans;
- Disinfect digital devices with disinfectant wipes;
- Encourage eating a well-balanced diet and getting plenty of rest;
- Wash backpacks, coats, and other articles that potentially carry germs;
- Prepare to pick your child up from school, if notified by school personnel that your child is ill;
- Contact your child's physician to have them seen, calling ahead to seek guidance, if the symptoms your child is displaying are possibly related to the flu or the Coronavirus.

With these guidelines in place, we will continue to follow the school's established protocols on notifying parents and caring for your children should any student become ill and display any symptoms while at school.

We are taking every precaution to maintain a sanitary, secure, and safe school campus for all involved parties. Cleaning crews and teachers are consistently cleaning and disinfecting. All health recommendations of which we are aware are being followed. Should the need arise to alter our regular school day schedules or school calendars any further, I will communicate by every means available to all Crusader families.

As we near spring break, I would refer families to the CDC travel recommendations (click [here](#) to access these online from the email). As you pursue plans for time together with your family, please exercise caution and pay attention to areas of concern highlighted by all health agencies.

I often say "Thank You" to all of our families because I know that you have a choice in your child's education. We are humbled and honored that you have entrusted your students to us. And during this unprecedented health event, much of the information we receive is dynamic and ever-changing. So I say "thank you" again for your patience with this process and involvement in making North Mobile Christian School the best that we can be for our students. In closing, I want to leave you a verse I shared with our 4th grade class as we prayed together this morning, "...for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. God bless you, Crusaders.

In Christ,



Christopher Reed,
Headmaster