



WASHTENAW
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

COVID Plan
2021-2022 School Year

From the Head of School

Dear WCA families,

WCA has a long-standing tradition of persevering when times become tough. That tradition continues as we face the current pandemic with resolve and determination.

During the 2020-2021 school year, by God's grace, we were open the entire year and our students attended in person five days a week. Several families joined us during the school year as we proved that we were able to provide full-time in-person instruction.

This year we begin with continued determination to accomplish our mission yet again. We do not know what this year will bring, but we know that we serve a God who does; and we will continue to rely on Him for wisdom and perseverance to meet each challenge head on. We are thankful that our hope is in Him and not in the things of this world. It is because of this hope that we can live without fear of the future.

In Christ alone and for His glory,
Alicia Ceccarelli
Head of School

What are our Guiding Principles?

Preserve the Mission, Philosophy, and Core Values of Washtenaw Christian Academy

These are the foundation of a WCA education. We are committed to providing an engaging learning environment that aligns with our core values and is true to the mission of our school and vision for our students is of most importance.

Stay on Campus

Washtenaw Christian Academy faculty and staff want to be with students on campus and in-person. We know that parents and students share this desire. WCA is committed to delivering face to face instruction in an environment that provides safety and takes the whole child into consideration. Our goal is to remain full-time while providing in-person instruction under the care of trained, professional, caring, and dedicated teachers for the entire school year.

Community Care and Well-being

Washtenaw Christian Academy values each student as a unique individual made in the image of Christ. At WCA, we focus on the spiritual, academic, social, and emotional needs of each unique child.

Teaching and Learning

Relationships are a key element of a WCA education. Our experienced faculty strive to connect and build valuable relationships with each student in our community. Our student body is close-knit, forming relationships across grade levels and supporting one another.

Learning Scenarios

The nature of the pandemic has been unpredictable. We strive as a school community to respond quickly to the challenges of this crisis so there is minimal disruption to the education of our students. We are prepared for both in-person instruction and distance learning in the case that we are not given a choice. We continue to celebrate the efforts of our teachers who have continued to adapt to changes throughout the school year. We are confident in their abilities to teach well in any scenario.

Possible Scenarios:

On-Campus Learning

Washtenaw Christian is open for in-person instruction with safety protocols and precautions in place. We request all members of our community to observe the safety protocols in place to act as good stewards of our community's health.

Hybrid Learning

Washtenaw Christian Academy is open for in-person instruction with strict safety protocols but not all students are on campus. As we respond to the pandemic and clusters of infection there is the possibility that individual students, families, and/or classes will need to be quarantined to slow or stop the spread of COVID. Their classroom teachers will instruct these students via our Google Classroom platform.

Remote Learning

If Washtenaw Christian Academy (and all schools state-wide) is mandated to close, WCA will deliver instruction online through Google Classroom.. We have implemented a robust learning schedule when remote learning was necessary in the past and we are prepared to implement a similar model again.

When Learning Remotely: Maintain the Mission

WCA's remote learning is driven by the school's mission. You can expect live, whole school assembly meetings, scheduled whole and small group lessons, and daily instruction in core subjects and several special classes over the course of the year. Teachers will provide a weekly overview to help families plan and stay organized. Teachers will schedule check-ins with individual students weekly.

For remote-learning scenarios: Students quarantined at home will be able to join in live classroom activities daily. These will be broadcast via Google Meets and recorded. Links to video conferencing will be available within the Google Classroom platform

Assignments will be a balance of on-screen and off-screen tasks which will connect to previous learning and the current curriculum. Students will have access to their consumable workbooks and textbooks for at-home use. *Reusable textbooks and borrowed Chromebooks are expected to be returned to WCA in the same condition they were taken home or a fee will be assessed.*

Classroom teachers will schedule check-ins with individual students at least once per week.

Parents can contact teachers by email and can expect a response within 24 hours on business days. *WCA administrators recommend that Middle and Upper School students contact their teachers independently, this is a valuable life-skill and our faculty are eager to support students in their academic pursuits.*

Community Agreement

All WCA students, parents, guardians, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members agree to be mindful of their community responsibility to the health and safety of all Washtenaw Christian Academy family members. We request that all of our school families join us in praying regularly for the safety, health, and wellbeing of the members of our school community.

There is an individual responsibility to maintain certain precautionary measures that will help with the spread of all viruses, to participate in daily health assessments at home, to practice exceptional personal hand hygiene, to respect policies and procedures, and to behave as good stewards of health to minimize the risk of infection for all WCA family members.

As health conditions and public health mandates change, Washtenaw Christian Academy will modify these expectations as deemed necessary.

Overview of Expectations

Washtenaw Christian Academy is committed to keeping children engaged, learning, and growing both academically and spiritually, while fostering opportunities to grow in relationships and community with their class and instructors.

Whether in-person or remotely, WCA teachers will provide a balanced, academically and spiritually challenging education while also providing a sense of community and normalcy as a structured school day. The challenges presented by this continued pandemic will require grace and flexibility from parents, students, and teachers alike; but, our continued partnership with WCA families and our shared faith will be the foundation for the success of our programs.

WCA teachers and staff are committed to providing an excellent education for each student regardless of in-person or remote learning. We value the well-being of each child in our care and it will continue to be a driving force in all of our decisions.

Washtenaw Christian Academy anticipates there will be times our teachers will not be available to teach (for example, due to their own or family health issues or potential childcare unavailability). WCA is proactively planning for teacher absences through the creation of a robust substitute teacher list in addition to dedicated building substitute teachers

Expectations For Students

Students learn best when they are prepared, attend and fully participate in class. Students are expected to arrive on time for both in-person or remote learning and actively participate in class discussions and learning activities. Assignments are expected to be completed with attention to quality and submitted to their teachers on time. If students are attending class remotely, they are expected to have their camera on and maintain the same appropriate behaviors they would in a normal classroom. This includes showing up on time, participating, and being dressed appropriately for school.

Attendance will be taken in each class. If we are in a period of remote-learning, attendance will be taken by the teacher and unexcused absences will be followed up with by the teacher and/or administration

In order to properly track attendance, parents should report absences by calling the main office at: (734)429-7733.

How Parents Can Help

Washtenaw Christian Academy is committed to assisting families in developing the character of Christ in their children, so they become citizens of excellence for the glory of God. We recognize that parents and families are their children's first teachers. In these uncertain times, our students will need additional guidance, not just in navigating changes in educational formats but also to understand any policies we implement.

In the event of remote learning due to quarantine, confirmed case or a mandate, we strongly encourage families to establish individual learning zones for their students. Students do best when they have a designated area with a desk or table to use as their own workspace. We request parents to ensure their students attend live online class sessions and submit their assignments according to their teachers' instructions. Parents and designated family members will be able to use RenWeb/FACTS to receive updates regarding their student's attendance and grades.

It should also be noted that there is a possibility that schools may be required to close this year. Should schools be required to close, WCA students will transition to the Google Classroom format which our teachers are prepared for.

Changes From Last Year: What to expect as we begin.

- Prek-5th grade will enter the school through the front doors. 6-12th will enter through the Southeast doors adjacent to the parking lot to reduce crowding.
- Lower School students will stay with their class/grade while inside the building. With the exception of Assembly and pep rallies and the occasional interaction with other students.
- Lunch will return to the cafeteria and for elementary lunches classes will sit together. There are three lunches scheduled to decrease the number of students at each table.
- Specials classes will take place in the specials classroom (e.g. art in the art room) with the exception of Spanish, which will be done in a student's home classroom. In the elementary students will still be separated by grades.
- Class sizes will be increased depending on grade and space in the classroom, along with the allowance for new desk configurations. In some cases less people may be sent home to quarantine this year vs. last. When in rows last year, when one person was Covid positive up to eight people would have to quarantine due to the distance guidelines just based on sitting in the classroom. In desk groups, even with more students in the classroom, we may only have to quarantine up to three others.
- Music will return as an academic offering. With choir in 9/10 and Band in 6th and general music for K-5.
- Upper school students will have the chance to move from classroom to classroom. Teachers will also shift rooms.
- Field trips will resume

Current COVID Protocols

Daily Screening

Please perform the daily screening supplied to you in your black family folder handed out at Orientation. You may also pick up a copy in the school office.

Masks

At this time there are no mandates in place requiring masking of the students. Masking will be a family choice when there are no mandates in place. We will support you and the decisions you make for your family. We also encourage families to understand that others are assessing several risk factors and we may not always agree with each other. Please have a conversation with your children about being kind to our friends even when families make different choices. We will continue to evaluate current conditions and any local or state mandates.

Positive Cases

We will continue to work with the Washtenaw County health department on contact tracing and determining if a student(s) need to learn virtually based on exposure. We were able to maintain a positive relationship with them this past year as we handled most of this in-house with input from them on positive cases.

Stay Home

We cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your child(ren) home under certain circumstances. Please use your best judgment with the protection of the education at WCA as a top priority. When you stay home under these circumstances you could avoid getting others sick with any virus, not just COVID. You may also prevent an entire class from having to learn virtually for up to 14 days..

Please keep your child home...

- if they have any symptoms that are listed on the health screening checklist.
- if they were recently exposed to COVID. Please call your health provider to determine if you need to quarantine and/or test.
- if anyone in the household or someone they were with in the past 48 hours is being tested for COVID

One day home could save many days of quarantine for students and staff.

Vaccines

We have received several questions about vaccine mandates. We have no intention of mandating the vaccine. That is not a statement for or against them. Many of our faculty and staff are vaccinated, and we encourage you to make informed medical choices with guidance from medical professionals.

Athletics

Sports related information is communicated through our Athletic Department. If there are changes to mandates or protocols that are sports related, they will be communicated from the Athletic Director.

Potential for Changed Protocols

As the year begins we will continually review our protocols. The goal of WCA is to continue to offer a rich educational experience to our students. We recognize the right of each family to make decisions that best suit their individual family needs and desires. We are also aware that COVID has the potential to disrupt the learning environment. We reserve the right to implement any portion of our Back to School Preparedness Plan that was developed last year to ensure our ability to stay in-person.

At any time the Washtenaw County health department may implement new mandates that may have a direct impact on our school, including a mask mandate. We intend to comply with those mandates so long as the ability to worship and learning is not impacted. Medical exemptions will be considered.

As conditions improve we may remove some of the protocols in place. When we do we will communicate that information to our families.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the ever changing circumstances. There will be times this year that conditions change, protocols change and we may need to adapt. These adaptations would not be possible without the understanding and support of our families.

We promise to always keep the education offered at WCA a top priority when considering any new protocols.