



July 27, 2020

Hello CSLA Parents, Prospective Parents, Faculty and Staff,

This is an update regarding our plan to open our 2020-21 school year on campus. To be clear, our intention remains to be operating C.S. Lewis Academy on campus starting September 9, 2020.

For the last several months, the CSLA school board, administration and a small directed committee have been engaged in research, consultation, and discussion with various officials, agencies, and stakeholders on the question of how to reopen our school on campus. As you know, things change rapidly. The leading guidance is being provided by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) project called *READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS*. Much of this guidance is mandatory and the framework for ALL schools in Oregon and is key to our reopening on campus. The plan will be confirmed for us by Yamhill County Health and Human Services and will be posted on our website August 15.

A few weeks ago, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released a set of principles then noted: *"With the above principles in mind, the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020."*

We believe those in the public eye denouncing the opening of schools are doing so with a large global view of what a school looks like. Certainly, a large school with large common areas, big class sizes and very complicated schedules poses many more issues than what we face at CSLA. In addition, when reviewed at a national level, local areas of infection vary greatly. There cannot be a broad-brush approach. Even the most prominent experts note that region of the country and related spread has a major impact on whether a school should open.

We believe we live in a county with well below average spread and have the facility and small class sizes that give us a unique ability to accomplish what everyone ultimately wants, to reopen our campus and school program SAFELY. Our goal is to control what we can control, while keeping our focus on starting classes on campus on time this fall, and being able to remain on campus. We will follow the mandatory protocols (*READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS*) and continue to evaluate additional suggestions to keep our students safe.

We do not yet have the answers to all of your questions, or even our own questions. This is a work in progress with more questions than answers. However, we still haven't seen a guidance hurdle

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we can't address and conquer. Last Wednesday, the ODE and OHA released version 2.7.2 of *READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS*. It includes the updated mask requirement announced by our governor on the same day. We plan to abide by that requirement but also realize that 6 weeks is a long time in the life of this pandemic and things very likely could change. We also have some ideas and are researching solutions like face shields versus masks if that rule is still mandatory when school starts.

To give you an idea of some of the other mitigation factors that are currently in our plan:

- A staggered start time with a mandatory screening each day
- A maximum class size of 14
- K-8 classes being treated as "cohorts" as much as possible with only those members in the individual cohort in contact each day
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades also taught in cohorts, with special cohorts developed where needed
- Desks will be placed 6 feet apart
- Increased strategies for ventilation in all classrooms
- Development of usable outside space (tables, tented areas, etc.)
- Aggressive sanitizing and hygiene protocols
- Utilizing outside spaces as much as possible (esp. in early fall)

This is just a tiny sample of the protocols and protections that will be incorporated into the plan. As noted above, this is a working plan and things will change with new guidance or ideas of mitigation. In addition, we are working on all the reactionary "what ifs," pertaining to a situation where we have an active Covid-19 case or exposure. These include:

- What if a student is exposed to, or tests positive for, Covid-19?
- What if a teacher is exposed to, or tests positive for, Covid-19?
- What are the quarantine rules for different exposures?
- What if we have to move to our Teacher-Led Learning at-Home model?
- And many other possible scenarios.

The plan attempts to balance the best interest of our students with that of the broader community, including their families and our faculty and staff. We know that most students are not a high-risk demographic if they are exposed to the coronavirus. Yet there is varied information on this topic. However, a percentage of our faculty and staff are at higher risk or have an immediate family member who is at higher risk. It is our responsibility to provide a safe work environment for them. We suspect that a similar percentage holds for students' families.

Regarding athletics, the OSAA also released their plan to postpone the start of some fall sports and evaluate others. We will continue to monitor what we are able to sponsor. At this time the fall sports of cross country, soccer and volleyball have had competition schedules delayed. We will communicate practice start plans soon. For elementary and middle school sports, those decisions won't be made until late August or early September but will likely follow the high school regulations. Again, as decisions are made, we'll keep you informed.

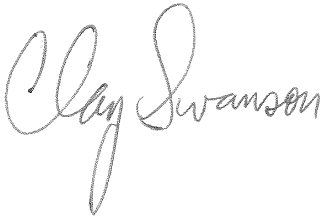
While C.S. Lewis Academy will be extremely vigilant in educating our community and asking for

the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete mitigation of risk will take place.

We believe there is a balance between trusting God while putting aside fear and planning for the safety of our community. It does not have to be one or the other. We hope that our plans to reopen the school for 2020-21 take into account both actively planning for the safety of our community and trusting God to act on our behalf.

You will hear from us again in a few weeks as more decisions are reached.

Serving Him,



Clay Swanson  
Principal



Steve Wallo  
Administrator

#### RESOURCES

**ODE/OHA: READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS, Updated July 22, 2020:** <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID19.aspx>

**AAP, Pediatricians, Educators, Superintendents urge a safe return to school this fall, July 10, 2020:** <https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2020/pediatricians-educators-and-superintendents-urge-a-safe-return-to-school-this-fall/>

**AAP, Covid-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Reentry:** <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

**CDC Update on Schools, July 23, 2020:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html>

**CDC Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020, July 23, 2020:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>