



VINEYARD OF GOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REOPENING SCHOOL

Dear VOG Family,

Our plans for the 2020-2021 school year continue to evolve as we gather recommendations and guidance from a variety of sources. That said, this is the comprehensive plan for reopening school when we return to campus this fall. These strategies, practices, protocols, and steps represent the best practices in order to minimize the transfer of germs and viruses on campus.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has made the strongest recommendation that “the coming school year should start with the goal of having students physically present in school”, citing ongoing evidence that young children are not as susceptible as adults to the virus that causes COVID-19.” This past week, the AAP further affirmed the value of state and local health and governing authorities helping guide the reopening of school.

The most current research by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among others, have found that while children can be infected by COVID-19, relatively few of these children are hospitalized or have symptoms. In fact, it was recently reported that out of 1.1 million children in Texas-licensed childcare centers, only 300 children tested positive for COVID-19 during the pandemic. Many of these children were asymptomatic. The chances of the children contracting COVID-19 were less than a .0027 percent probability. That occurred in schools with a less comprehensive and proactive plan. However, we will be implementing such a plan.

Additionally, while local health officials have the authority to keep school districts closed for in-person instruction through the fall, Texas Attorney General [Ken Paxton said in a letter](#) ,“In accordance with the protections granted by the First Amendment and Texas law, this guidance allows religious private schools to determine for themselves when to reopen free from any government mandate or interference.”

These are our driving priorities:

1. Providing a safe learning and teaching environment for our families and employees, while also preserving our sense of community.
2. Utilizing all of our resources to deliver the vision that our students will be grounded in God's Word and challenged to achieve academic excellence as they effectively prepare to use their gifts and abilities to follow God's plan for their lives, regardless of circumstances.
3. Prioritizing face-to-face on-campus instruction, while providing opportunities and accommodations for students or families who are dealing with the immune-compromised or other circumstances that may make them at-risk.

These plans represent our best effort to develop strategies that protect everyone in our community, while also providing a fantastic VOG educational experience. We plan to meet on our campus as long and as often as we can.

GENERAL SAFETY

The following safety guidelines will be in place at the start of the school year and will last as long as necessary.

- **GENERAL HYGIENE:** Students will have additional opportunities to wash their hands throughout the day.
- **CLEANING:** Classrooms, desks, chairs, restrooms, and other high-touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
- **LUNCH:** Students will have lunch in their classrooms or outdoors, if weather permits.
- **CLASSROOMS:** All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, and wipes. Classroom doors will be kept open as much as possible to allow ventilation and airflow. Students who are kinder - 2nd grade and teachers will have a role in sanitizing their own personal space.
- **PERSONAL ITEMS:** Students will need to bring their own water bottles, filled at home and labeled with their name. Students may not share or use each others' pencils or other personal items. ALL personal items must be labeled with the student's name.
- **FIELD TRIPS:** Field trips will be temporarily suspended and replaced by virtual or on-campus field trips when possible.
- **CARE FOR SICK STUDENTS:** If a student becomes ill while on campus, the office will immediately contact the parents/guardians for pick-up. A place has been designated in the building for students to wait for parents in a more private and isolated setting.

DROP OFF/ DISMISSAL

- For the first week of school, parents will be permitted to enter and drop-off their child(ren). Please be mindful of others and practice social distancing.
- After the first week of school, parents will drive through to drop-off and pick-up students.
- Students will be screened each day before entering the building.
- Students arriving on campus after school has started must contact the school office before arriving. Staff members will then meet the student(s) outside of the building and take them to their classroom. However, please be mindful of our staff and arrive on time.

WHEN TO STAY HOME

As referenced earlier, the health and safety of our staff, students, and families is our top priority, so we are asking parents to partner with us by following this one simple, yet important guideline:

1. If a member in your household is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, is unwell, or has a fever over 100.0:
 - Stay home
 - Call your doctor
 - Inform the school office
 - Coordinate the time for the student to return to the school with the VOG administration. While the student is quarantined, the school will provide the student's educational work to complete while at home. The student's teacher will provide support for the student during the time they are quarantined.

Please note that if a child demonstrates a fever over 100.0 while on campus, he/she will not be allowed to return to campus until the child is fever-free without medication for 72 hours. This is a change to our former 24-hour policy.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE ON CAMPUS

VOG is working on a virtual option to serve students who are unable to be on campus for an extended period of time due to illness, a compromised immune system, or possible exposure to COVID-19. Our goal is to purchase devices for every classroom that will enable teachers to provide synchronous instruction for students who are not on campus.

SPECIAL EVENTS & CHAPEL

There are many facets of school life for which our plans are still evolving.

- Chapel and special events will continue to be held at VOG. However, there will be guidelines to follow as we approach the events/chapels.

HEALTH SCREENING PROTOCOL

- **TEMPERATURE CHECKS:** Temperatures checks for all employees and students will be mandatory before individuals are allowed to enter the facility. All students must have their temperature checked at home every day. If an individual's temperature is above 100.0, the individual may not enter the building.
- **FACE COVERINGS:** Students will not be required to wear face coverings. Teachers will wear face shields during arrival and while having one-on-one conversations with students to avoid the potential transmission of droplets during times when physical distancing may be difficult to maintain.
- **VISITORS ON CAMPUS:** To minimize the risk of exposure, we will begin the school year by limiting access to our campus building to students, teachers, and essential personnel. All essential guests, parents, and visitors (who are approved in advance) are required to complete the Health Screening form and practice social distancing.

HEALTH SCREENING AND WAIVER AGREEMENT

- Parents and employees must complete a waiver with required signatures at the beginning of the school year releasing VOG of any liability in regards to COVID-19. Every parent will receive a copy of The Health Screening Waiver and Agreement that must be turned in before the first day of school, August 17th.
- Parents and employees must sign a Health Screening Agreement that states they will neither enter the campus nor send a student to the campus if they are exhibiting any of the COVID-19 symptoms.

TUITION

VOG is not funded by the government and operates by tuition and donations only. Tuition will remain the same regardless of whether or not a student is absent. This is in part due to limited revenue, and in part to offset the many and varied expenses of the school during this season. There is an increased need for management and scheduling during this season to ensure students receive quality education, whether on campus or at home.

To be successful, this reopening plan will require maximum effort and attention from all of our teachers, staff, students, and parents. While it is impossible to eliminate all risks, we believe that God will keep us safe. We are so looking forward to being together in the new school year. We believe that God has a great plan for each of our students. We also see great opportunity for spiritual growth and life preparation in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Berenice Escobar

School Director

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[Vineyard of God Christian School Website](#)

