

Faith Academy Bellville Reopening Policy

2020-2021

FA is now and will continue to be praying each day asking God to place a hedge of protection around our entire campus as well as each person on the campus. Our protection from any illness is our faith in that prayer and the armor of protection that God's Word instructs us to put on daily.

- 1. SANITATION** - Regularly deep-clean high-touch areas such as stairwell railings and door knobs, desk/table tops, chair backs etc. As research continues to state the life of virus germs on hard surfaces, FA will amend regular cleaning as warranted. This includes sanitizing between lunch times. Playground will be sanitized in a timely manner to ensure clean surfaces. Diffusers containing essential oils inhibiting bacteria and viruses in the air will be used in all classrooms.
- 2. ORIENTATION** - Students and staff will be encouraged and orientation given to the importance of daily personal hygiene including frequent hand-washing with soap and water as well as the value of not touching one's hands to face. Water bottles will be encouraged. Water fountains will be monitored by teachers and staff to ensure proper use.
- 3. DISTANCING** - We always encourage students to respect their classmates' space. However, we will not mandate any specific footage of physical distancing. Students could be at shared tables for specific classroom activities, but teachers will monitor for closeness by not using maximum capacity seating, i.e., a group of tables that could hold 8 may use only 4-6 seats. We are fortunate to have space in our classrooms and teachers will spread out to the extent possible in the individual classrooms. The main focus of teachers is delivering instruction to students. Secondary students will still move from class to class and have lockers. Elementary students will have cubbies in their classrooms and will transition to other classrooms/activities across campus as usual. Physical exercise is essential to the development of the whole child.

- 4. LUNCH/CHAPEL** - To offer healthy lunch and snacks has always been our goal and will continue with safety provisions already in place as required by the Health Department. Special accommodations such as peanut allergies are afforded by contacting administration. Lunch space and Chapel for all students is being re-evaluated with consideration given for sanitation between meal times/services, the possibility of rotating times, the possibility of gathering in smaller groups, and/or the possibility of spreading out to other areas for lunch/chapel.
- 5. OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS/ RECESS/PE** - FA is in the process of beautifying the north-west portion of FA's property to allow all classes an available place for outdoor classrooms, PE and lunch time as weather permits. Also weather permitting K-5 will start the day on the outdoor playgrounds.
- 6. HAND WASHING** - FA has always encouraged hand washing after restroom visits. During the 20-21 school year certain personnel will be assigned to consistently supervise young students Nursery - 5th to wash their hands. Older students will be given a verbal orientation of the importance of hand washing and there will be ample time to do so throughout the day. Given the division of health and medical officials on the effectiveness and safety of many hand sanitizers, FA has chosen to provide outdoor sinks with soap and running water for students and staff to wash their hands when transitioning from outdoors or to eating areas.
- 7. GLOVES** - Gloves have always been worn by those serving food and will continue. No other persons will be required or allowed to do so.
- 8. MASKS** FA will not require masks to be worn by students or staff on campus and at FA activities. Any parent wishing their student to wear a mask may send a written request and a plain white mask so that administration can communicate the request to the teacher(s). If a parent requests that the student wear a mask, that choice is between the student and the parent. FA teachers and administrators will not require the mask to stay in place. FA knows from experience that any extra clothing or facial adornment is a distraction and can deter both delivery of instruction and effective learning. (This is one of our reasons for not requiring and advising against masks.) Should a student's

handling of their mask be a distraction, the administration will take possession of the mask and ask for a parent conference. Guests will be allowed to wear masks but will not be required.

9. **TEMPERATURE CHECKS** - Because FA has added a clause to the 20-21 Parent Commitment in which the parent agrees to honestly adhere to FA's fever policy, FA will trust all parents to monitor their child and follow policy. Therefore temperature checks will be done only when a student complains or is suspected of being ill.
10. **ISOLATION ROOM** - In the event that a student is found to have a fever while on campus, regular policy will be followed with the addition that FA has designated room 628 in building #6 as an isolation room. Students will be accompanied and kept there with supervision until picked up by an authorized adult. Sanitation of that Isolation Room will be done after each occupancy.
11. **SYMPTOMS** - Faculty and Staff will watch daily for of any symptoms of illness, but question only students displaying symptoms. No routine questioning will be done.
12. **POSITIVE TEST / RESPONSE TO INFECTION:** Faith Academy will handle each confirmed case of COVID-19 individually and ask for written confirmation. In the event a student has a lab confirmed case of COVID-19, parents must notify administration immediately. Students and staff who have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 are required to stay at home through the 14 day incubation period *or* self-quarantine for a minimum of five days *and* be cleared by a medical professional prior to returning to campus. All members of the immediate family will be required to follow the same protocol in regard to attendance at Faith Academy. Absences will be tracked but will not count against the students or staff who are in required quarantined. Makeup work will be required on a case-by-case-basis since there are varying degrees of illness related to the COVID-19 virus. In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, the remainder of the class will be isolated for all activities for a minimum of five days and the regular classroom will be sanitized. In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, parents will be promptly notified so that they can make the appropriate choice for their family.

13. **CLOSURE:** FA's Board of Directors will determine the proper course of action if closure seems to be an option. Policy 4.02-3 states, "FA will take proactive steps to protect the workplace in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. It is the goal of FA during any such time period to strive to operate effectively and ensure that all essential services are continuously provided and that students and employees are safe within the workplace/learning environment. ... Unless otherwise notified, our normal attendance and leave policies will remain in place. Individuals who believe they may face particular challenges reporting to work during an infectious disease outbreak should take steps to develop any necessary contingency plans. For example, should the school close, employees must be prepared to deliver instruction through video and post to google classroom so that education continues to occur through distance learning. ..."
14. **EXPOSURE:** (presumed or confirmed) will not exclude a student or staff from attendance at FA. FA honors any parent's decision to quarantine their student. The normal procedure for makeup work will be followed and absences recorded.
15. **VIRTUAL LEARNING:** Currently, the virtual learning option is available for students in K-12. The curriculum is through ABeka with instructional delivery streamed on the computer by ABeka staff. FA teachers will monitor students who choose the virtual learning option by checking attendance (with 90% attendance required), grading papers, offering assistance/tutoring to students, and ensuring that grades are recorded in the FACTS system for the student's academic record. The virtual learning option is a semester commitment for the sake of consistency for the student(s) and for the staff. Students choosing the virtual learning option by FA through ABeka are enrolled as FA students and qualify to participate in TAPPS competitions.
16. FA will seek out all credible sources for any future decisions concerning any illness or circumstance.

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