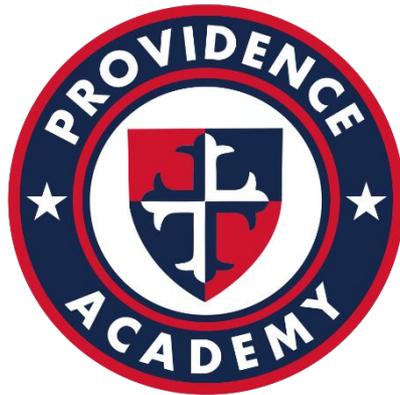


PROVIDENCE ACADEMY

BE THE LIGHT



PLAN FOR A HEALTHY START 2021-2022

PROVIDENCE



BUILDING LEADERS FOR CHRIST

PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT

Renewed Principles Behind the Plan:

- Seek God's guidance and His glory in everything
- Protect the health and safety of students and employees
- Keep our mission top of mind
- Stay true to the culture of the Providence community
- Assess a variety of input from federal, state, and local resources
- Implement options within practical constraints
- Set clear expectations & have clear communication
- Reinforce parental authority and decisions
- Collect feedback from parents, staff members, and local experts



Note: Portions of last year's plan were retained for the upcoming school year. Other facets of the plan are revised. Please read each section. Also, flexibility is key, since we will continue to monitor the situation and may need to make adjustments to components of the plan. Please view the pandemic and any limited protocols as temporary. We plan to phase out some protocols as it makes sense by the numbers and other factors. Through Christ, we are going to have one of our best years ever!

It has been our continued goal to return to normalcy this school year, as feasible, so students can enjoy a rich academic and highly relational environment. At the same time, we take the safety of all students, staff, and visiting parents seriously. We hope this plan answers key questions for our families.

PROVIDENCE



School Start Date:

Tuesday, AUG. 17, 2021 (All Grades, K-12)

PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT



Measures



ENHANCED SANITATION: Our school buildings will be cleaned each school day with the same disinfectant solution we used last year. It is safe and effective against human coronaviruses. High-touch areas will be disinfected more frequently. Teachers will have spray bottles of solution and disinfecting wipes available to them as well.

ENCOURAGED HYGIENE: Hand sanitizing stations/dispensers will be available for every classroom and throughout the school. We encourage students to bring their own individual bottles of sanitizer to apply as their parents have directed. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly.



FACIAL MASKS: As a University-Model School, Providence Academy recognizes the biblical authority and responsibility of parents with regard to decisions involving their children, including health matters. With the state mask mandate lifted, the school plans to reinforce the decision of each family, whether to mask or not to mask. Staff will have the same flexibility. Also, staff have had the opportunity to vaccinate, and a good number have offered that they have done so.

While masks are not required universally, it should be noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) highly recommend the wearing of masks at school to mitigate, not eliminate, the spread of Covid-19 and variants. If NWA is still categorized as a “high” transmission zone when school starts, parents may give serious consideration to having their children mask, if only temporarily, assuming there are no underlying health risks associated with masking.

PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT



Other Measures



CLASS CAPS: As always, we are committed to keeping class sizes small. For grades K-3rd, the cap is 18 per class; for grades 4-6th, the cap is 20; for grades 7-12th, the cap is 22. In addition to the educational and discipleship benefits, depending upon the space, these numbers are more conducive to mitigating the spread of contagions.

UMS ADVANTAGE: Our unique model also provides some healthy built-in distancing/insulation due to the cadence of 2 days of classes for the Grammar level and 3 days of classes for the Upper School.



LUNCH DISTANCING: Students will enjoy their lunchtimes! Since all students will be without a mask at least for portions of lunchtime, we are planning to take these simple steps to promote social distancing until Benton and Washington Counties move from “high” transmission zones to “moderate” or “low.”

At the Grammar Campus, we will be seating six students per 8-foot round table with their friends from their homeroom. We also plan to spread the tables apart, as we did last year.

At the Upper Campus, We have purchased and installed picnic tables to facilitate outdoor seating, promoting the spacing of students at lunch.



PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT

Pending New Measures We Are Pursuing



REFILLING STATIONS: At both the Grammar and Upper Campuses, pending approval from the churches, we are pricing out having the current water fountains retrofitted with water bottle refilling stations. If approved, the plan would foster more sanitary fountain drinking conditions.



AIR FILTRATION UNITS:

Pending approval from our host churches, we plan to purchase air purification units for classrooms at both campuses and the Patriot Collegiate Center. This measure would be in addition to the significant upgrades Immanuel Baptist Church (i.e., Grammar Campus) made to their HVAC and air filtration system.



PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT



Procedures

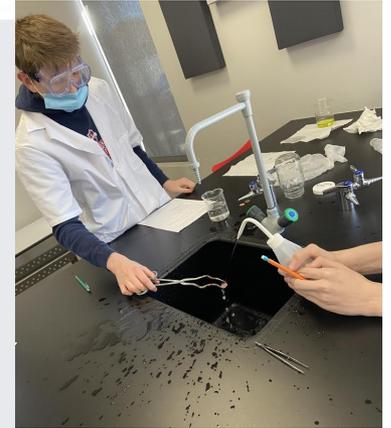
TEMPERATURE SCREENING:

Thermal temperature scanners will be available at both the Upper and Grammar Campuses for temperature screening. We currently plan to screen students, staff, and all visitors who pass the front desk until our region (i.e., Benton & Washington Counties) transitions from a “high” transmission rate zone to at least a “moderate” transmission area, according to the CDC.

The scanners will also be used if a stakeholder is suspected of developing a temperature after initially passing the screening.

As always, if you suspect your child may be running a temperature*, please check before bringing him/her to school for classes or any function. According to DHS guidelines, students must be fever free for 48 hours without medication before they can return to school. A doctor’s note is preferred but not required.

Temperature should be below **100.4° to attend school in person.*



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT



Procedures Continued

QUARANTINE PROCEDURES: If members of our school community test positive or have a known exposure to COVID-19, we will follow CDC, ADH, & DESE recommendations regarding quarantining and testing. Students or staff members who are a probable close contact (within 6' for 15 min. in 24 hour period) will be given the resources needed to work from home for a time. Students who need to quarantine from home will follow the blue sheet instructions with parent support, and they will be provided class handouts and/or Google Classroom resources. Students/Staff who need to quarantine may stop:

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 with a negative test result (test on day 5 or later)

Students or staff will NOT need to quarantine if *any* of these is true:

1. Individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered and who are subsequently exposed to someone with COVID-19 within three months of their original diagnosis do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
2. Students or staff who have been fully vaccinated (i.e., 2 doses) do not have to quarantine, if asymptomatic.
3. Individuals exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not need to quarantine if they have no symptoms and *both* the infected *and* exposed individual were wearing masks consistently & correctly during the time of exposure.

In the case of a positive COVID test among our students or staff, Providence Academy will communicate that information to families following FERPA and HIPAA regulations. Additionally, the affected campus will close until thorough cleaning and disinfecting can be fully accomplished. The student or staff member who tested positive will be required to isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms or 10 days from the test date if asymptomatic.

We plan to review the quarantine procedures when the number of cases falls.



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We hope the following FAQ's will be helpful.



Will there be remote learning?

No, we do not plan to offer remote learning this year. Our hard-working faculty did a stellar job at instructing both remote and in-class learners last year, however, the workload was unsustainable. Also, as the AAP noted, the benefits of in-person school, where possible, are clear.

How long does my child quarantine if he/she is a probable close contact?

Please see the previous page.

Can parents still come to the building to volunteer?

Parents are welcome to come into the building to volunteer. When parents and visitors do come to campus when school is in session, they will be asked to have their temperature checked (passing the screener) if proceeding past the front desk. Also, the administrator may use his or her discretion about whether the number of campus visitors has become a concern.

PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS CONTINUED



If my child is running a fever or showing symptoms, what do I need to do?

Please keep your child home if you suspect they are sick. According to DHS guidelines, students must be fever free for 48 hours without medication before they can return to school. A doctor's note is preferred but not required.

What are you doing to keep faculty and staff safe? What happens if my child's teacher is ill or quarantined?

We remain dedicated to the safety of all members of our faculty and staff and all members of our community. We will provide masks, gloves, and sanitizer to faculty and staff if they choose to use them. We are also pursuing air filtration units for classrooms. All staff have had access to vaccination services as well. If a teacher or his/her family member becomes ill or needs to quarantine, a substitute teacher will take over until the teacher can return to work safely.



PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS CONTINUED

What is the school using for their Learning Management System (LMS)?

All grades will use Google Classroom and FACTS/Renweb LMS. Other platforms may be used as well.

What types of masks are approved?

For those who wear masks, we are continuing to allow exceptions to dress code colors to provide some creative relief. Although research shows some masks to be more effective than others, any mask material chosen by the student's parent will meet approval this year.

Masks may not have writing (like slogans or phrases), menacing images (like fangs or other "angry" themes printed on them), or offensive or divisive symbols of any kind. The school may disallow any specific mask if deemed inappropriate. Students whose parents want them to wear a mask will be supplied a disposable face mask, if he/she forgets his/her mask and requests a replacement.

What can I do to support the school?

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is pray. Pray for God's continued protection and safety for all, and pray for harmony regarding the plan.



PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE-BE THE LIGHT

Athletic programming will be active in accordance with Heartland Christian Athletic Association (HCAA), Arkansas Activities Association (AAA), and Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines. Providence is committed to all activities we offer, even if seasons are shortened or delayed.



We are also committed to provide our variety of Fine Arts activities such as band, musical theatre, and other interest-based clubs. Modifications to these programs are not currently planned. However, we will continue to monitor the situation.

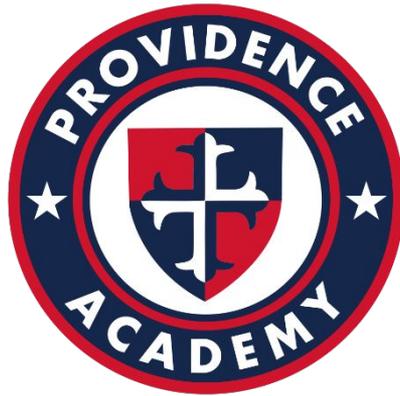


PROVIDENCE



PROVIDENCE ACADEMY

BE THE LIGHT



PLAN FOR A HEALTHY START 2021-2022

If you have questions, please reach out to either Mark Hopkins (Upper) or Chelsea Abbott (Grammar). Direct questions that are not specific to a campus to Jason Ross.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO COMING BACK TOGETHER.

IT'S GOING TO BE THE BEST SCHOOL YEAR YET!

BUILDING LEADERS FOR CHRIST

PROVIDENCE

