



August 14, 2020

Dear Cheverus Family,

We have been working on developing several plans for the safe reopening of Cheverus for weeks now. One of our initial plans included full time, 5 days, in person instruction for all grades pre-school through grade 8. However, last week the Malden Board of Health along with the School Committee voted to provide 100% remote learning for all grades because of an “uptick” in the infection rate in the city. They were also concerned over the increases in infection in the surrounding cities of Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and Lynn, some of which are alarming. This has caused us to pause and reconsider.

Here at Cheverus while we are a microcosm of Malden, we do also have students from all of these other cities. As I mentioned in my last communication, our paramount concern is the safety of not only our children, but also the responsibility we all share for the safety of the larger community.

After consultation with the Board of Health, Father Mario, Mr. Lane, parents, and the faculty of Cheverus, we will implement the following plan:

1. Pre-school through grade 5 will come to school full time. Having only these grades will allow us to utilize more of the teaching space in the building and safely spread the children out.
2. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will follow a “hybrid” model for the first 2 weeks of school. This means that they will come to school one day each week at the start of the year and learn remotely four days a week. Students in each grade will be divided into either an “A” group or a “B” group. Group “A” will meet on Monday and Group “B” on Tuesday. We will reassess after September 30 with a view towards increasing in-class instruction to two days after that provided all is going well. There will be ongoing evaluation with the goal to have grades 6, 7, and 8 return full time when appropriate.
3. Our plan calls for us to reopen school according to the following schedule:
 - a) September 8th and 9th a mandatory virtual orientation for all classes will be conducted for all parents and students by their individual classroom teacher. All students will participate in remote learning on Thursday and Friday of that week.
 - b) During that initial meeting teachers will provide you with a panoramic view of their classroom, explain the daily procedures, including details of drop off and pick up. They will also describe the students’ daily schedule in advance of in-person instruction. The meeting will also allow for questions.
 - c) Grades Pre-school through Kindergarten will return for in school learning on Monday September 14th. That entire week will consist of half days.
 - d) Grades 1 through 5 will return for in school learning on Monday September 14. That entire week will consist of full days.

- e) Group “A” in grades 6, 7, and 8 will report on Monday, September 14 and Group “B” for those same grades will report on Tuesday, September 15.
- 4. There will be no Early Drop Off or Extended Day programs to start the year.

The plan for in-person learning includes all of the following:

1. Students will maintain *social distancing* throughout their time in school.
 - a) Desks will be in rows facing the same direction, spaced 6 feet apart front to back and side to side.
 - b) Bathrooms and hallways will be clearly marked for social distancing.
2. Masks will be *required* for all students. They must bring 2 of their own each day from home. Teachers will always wear masks and when necessary use gloves. There will be frequent mask breaks throughout the day in a larger or outdoor area.
3. We will be purchasing the necessary PPE’s and cleaning supplies for the school.
4. All parents must send their students with their own personal hand sanitizer. There will be hand sanitizing dispensers throughout the building as well.
5. Frequent hand-washing will take place at appropriate intervals throughout the day.
6. We will designate the cafeteria, gymnasium, gym stage, and extended day room overlooking the gym as additional classroom space in order to facilitate and maintain social distancing. Classes will be live-streamed when possible. Otherwise, they will be completing assignments from their classroom teacher supervised by a staff member.
7. We will utilize all of our outdoor space: courtyard, playground, school yard, and parking lot for recess and mask breaks, as well as some instruction.
8. Pick-up and drop off will be staggered in the following manner:

Grades	Drop Off	Pick Up
PS through K	7:15	1:45
1 through 4	7:30	2:00
5 through 8	7:45	2:15

9. Students will be assigned a time and location to report to their teachers.
 - a) Parents must wear a face mask at these times.
 - b) Parents must adhere to these times. Tardy students must come to the main entrance, ring the bell and wait to be brought into the building by a staff member. Parents of younger students must wait until their child is met by an adult. Per city guidelines, parents will not be allowed in the building at this time.
 - c) Students will be escorted by their teachers into the building once everyone has arrived.
 - d) There will be no running or play time before school.
10. All surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day and at the conclusion of the day. These include but are not limited to handrails, sinks, door knobs, desks, tables, and bathrooms. We will have additional custodial staff to accomplish this.
11. Any student who presents as “sick” will be isolated in an area we have designated for that purpose. **Arrangement must be made to pick up your sick child within an hour.**

12. Students' temperatures will be checked at the start of the school day. Parents must stay until child is cleared of temperature checks.
13. **Under no circumstance should any student who manifest symptoms of illness be sent to school. Sending your child to school sick jeopardizes the continuance of in person learning for that entire class.**

The following is a parent-checklist provided to you by the CDC. You may find the information useful when preparing for the return to school.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>

Any parent who decides to keep their child home for remote learning must indicate that as soon as possible. This is very important for us to know so that we may plan. Once you've made that decision, you may not change to in-person learning unless state regulations change.

Teachers, will livestream classes for students in grades K - 8 for those students who are learning remotely from home. If your child is learning remotely, he/she must adhere to the following protocols:

1. They must attend their class each day all day.
2. They must be seated at a quiet place for this purpose.
3. They must be visibly present on the screen to their teacher(s).
4. Have all necessary materials for each of their subjects.
5. Be dressed appropriately, just as they would if they were physically present.
6. Avoid any distractions (food, television, music, etc.).

You should inform us if you have any technological needs for remote learning. Once again, I remind you that all of this is contingent upon no further changes mandated by the state or local districts.

In-person learning is the ideal, however, if we are not allowed to return to the building for in-person instruction, our teachers have worked this summer on formalizing distance learning. Among the changes and improvements are more time on learning, a more formal schedule, attendance procedures, more live instruction, and a more formal grading system. Each teacher will contact their students and their parents with their curriculum, policies and procedures in the event that distance learning must continue.

Let's continue to pray for an end to this crisis and a return to a more normal routine. Meanwhile, stay safe and may God bless us all. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Respectfully,



Thomas P. Arria, Jr.

Principal