



# CTTCS Re-Entry FAQs “Stronger Together”

*“The body does not consist of one member but of many.”*

1 Corinthians 12:14



**FAQ Document - August 11, 2020**

## Lunch

***Q: How will hot lunch be delivered to students and how long is the lunch period?***

A: The lunch staff will go to the hallways and offer lunch in a grab-and-go box/bag. Pre-ordering is not necessary, the staff will prepare enough for each day. The lunch period is 45 minutes long, and recess will be integrated at other times throughout the day.

## Remote Learning

***Q: Do we have the option to go 100% remote if we as a family chose?***

A: For a variety of reasons, for the first six weeks, we will not be offering a 100% remote learning option. The main reason that helped us to make this difficult choice is: our school's bandwidth is maxed out. When we have many students on devices in the building at one time, our internet speed slows significantly and programs do not fully function. If we add full-time live streaming to this mix, we are afraid our internet service will crash, as it has before. We have researched upgrading the bandwidth, and it would require a \$30,000 fee for digging a dedicated line closer to the school. When the building was constructed and there were no other buildings in the area at the time, the cable line dedicated to the school (that is still in use) is over a mile away. The further data has to travel, the weaker the connection in the school becomes. We are planning on building a dedicated line with help from Comcast, but that project cannot be completed until at least the summer of 2021.

***Q: If I have a child with a serious medical condition, or live with a relative that has a serious medical condition, can my child have a remote option?***

A: Yes. A medical form along with an agreement with the school would need to be signed by the parents and a physician certifying a medical condition or certifying that someone is at high-risk in the home. The form will cover the first trimester and will need to be filled out again if conditions still exist at that point. It should be noted that the teacher's first priority is to the students in front of him/her and that students with a medical excuse must realize that going fully virtual may not always work with our internet and will require greater support from the parent.

***Q: Can my PreK child go fully remote?***

A: Educationally, we do not believe that fully remote online learning is best for students in grades PreK, K, 1, 2, and 3 due to the amount of time sitting next to a computer screen and not interacting with peers or teachers.

***Q: If other public school districts are going remote, will the Diocese choose to make our schools remote?***

A: At the moment, the decision of the diocese is to go hybrid, based on a conversation with Governor Carney and the Delaware Department of Health.

***Q: If quarantine of a student is required will they be sent home with virtual/at-home learning requirements?***

A: Each case will be handed by our nurse and the Delaware Department of Health on an individual basis. If a student or group of students is required to stay at home, information about at-home learning will come from the child's teacher.

***Q: If 100% of the school goes to remote learning because of a mandate by the state or diocese, will there be different times available to view online learning for those who will have to go to daycare.***

A: If this is the case, then live lessons would be recorded and placed in Google Classroom for students to view in the evening.

## **First Days of School**

***Q: When is my child's first day of school?***

A: September 3rd & 4th are the first days of school (both are Noon Dismissal days). Students in the "maroon" group, as well as all PreK, K, and 1st grade students will report on September 3rd. On September 3rd, PreK students will report from 9am - 12 Noon. Kindergarten students will report at 8:15am. Students in the "gold" group, as well as all PreK, K, and 1st grade students will report on September 4th. On September 4th, PreK students will report at normal time (7:35) and Kindergarten students will report again at 8:15am. Monday, September 7th, is a holiday with no school. Tuesday, September 8th is the first full day of school. You will receive a calendar by August 17th to let you know which days your child reports for the first six weeks of school.

***Q: When will I find out which group my child is in and which homeroom they belong to?***

A: Homeroom and "maroon" or "gold" groupings will be emailed to families by August 17th at the latest.

## **Scheduling**

***Q: Did you consider other schedules such as a half day model or a week on/week off schedule?***

A: From page 1 of the re-entry document we read: "Please understand that we studied a variety of schedules before we came to the conclusion that this schedule provided students with (1) the most face-to-face hours to connect and form a positive relationship with teachers, (2) the best opportunity to re-connect and make much-needed peer bonds, and (3) a consistent schedule." We will continue to study this model and re-plan after six weeks if needed.


***Q: Will students be in their classroom all day from the beginning of the day until the end?***

A: Children will be in their classroom cohorts for most of the day. There will be times they leave the classroom for gym, outside time, recess, outdoor classes, etc.

***Q: Why is there not active teaching virtually on the days students will be home?***

A: Teachers will be actively teaching to the students who are in the building. Please realize that on the day your child is not in school the teacher is actively teaching in-person to the other half of students, thus making them not available for online teaching. Active learning activities such as review work, practice, enrichment, videos, etc. will be provided for students when they are at home.

***Q: Could the school consider a hybrid schedule for parents with students in higher grades? Such as a first grader and a seventh grader?***



A: The state and diocesan recommendation is that all students PreK through first are in full time and older students are in the building half-time. At this point there is no availability for younger students to follow the older students' schedules.

***Q: Why is there no preference given to the eighth grade students to attend each day since they are graduating?***

A: Although we would love to have students in the building everyday, it was not recommended at this time by the state or diocese.

## **Responding to Positive Cases**

***Q: How will you respond to positive cases for teachers or students?***

A: On page 10-11 of the re-entry document the procedure for responding to positive tests is outlined. Please know that our school nurse has direct contact with the Delaware Department of Health. Every case will be handled on an individual basis.

***Q: Will teachers and students be tested before returning to school?***

A: Teachers will be tested monthly, beginning in August, by the State of Delaware. We highly encourage families to get tested at the many free sites offered by the State of Delaware. For more information about getting tested, please see: <https://delaware.curativeinc.com/welcome>.

***Q: What scenario do you anticipate for a full closure of the building?***

A: If mandated by the governor or superintendent, we will close the building and move to online learning.

***Q: Will there be a requirement for parents, teachers, and staff to report instances when they have come into contact with a positive COVID-19 person to the school?***

A: The screening tool found on page 4 of the reentry document takes this question into consideration. If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, please keep your child home, seek out advice from your child's doctor(s) and send an email to the following four persons: the main office, the school principal, the school nurse, and the child's homeroom teacher.

***Q: How can your plan mitigate against possible spread of COVID-19?***

A: The entire hybrid plan as well as hygiene, social distancing, and disinfecting procedures, was created to mitigate against the possible spread of COVID-19. These plans are in place because we want to keep everyone healthy.

***Q: If positive cases will be handled on a case by case basis, why not let all students back into the building?***

A: Due to our school population of over 250 students, it was a request of the state and diocese to limit the number of students in the building for the first six weeks.

## Emergency Drills

***Q: How will fire and intruder drills be handled?***

A: On the first days of school, teachers will review the process for these drills. Fire drills will still take place as they are a requirement from the fire marshal. Students will wear masks as they exit the building and spread out in our common meeting area outside. At this point intruder or other drills will not take place, but teachers will review these procedures often with their students.

## Before and After Care

***Q: Will you offer before care and after care?***

A: Yes. Details are found on page 7-8 of the reentry document.

***Q: If aftercare is not needed for the first month, but potentially may be needed, will we be able to utilize and pay as needed?***

A: Yes.

***Q: If I have a child who is in school 5 days a week vs. half of the week, is there flexibility in availability of after care and the cost?***

A: Yes. Revised rates for after care will be announced soon.

## Athletics

***Q: Will you utilize volunteer coaches for fall sports and will they be tested?***

A: Yes, we will use volunteer coaches. Coaches and athletes will follow the same screening process as outlined on page 4 of the reentry document. Testing will not be provided from CYM but is highly recommended. For more information about getting tested, please see:

<https://delaware.curativeinc.com/welcome>.

## Social/Physical Distancing

***Q: How far spread out will students be in classrooms?***

A: All students will be between 4-6 feet apart in classrooms.

***Q: Will face masks be required while outside at recess and on the playground?***

A: On the playground, masks will be required since the equipment is not spread out. At other times outside, if students are less than 6 feet away from others they will be required to wear masks. Teachers will monitor and enforce mask rules based on the activity.

***Q: Will plexiglass dividers be used in the classroom, offices, cafeteria, etc.?***

A: Plexiglass dividers for student desks have not been proven to be effective unless they wrap around the whole child. A plexiglass shield is at the front desk in the office to protect the secretary. When teachers are working closely with students they will be required to wear a face shield and a face mask.

## **Class Sizes**

***Q: What are class sizes in the hybrid model?***

A: PreK3 will have a maximum of 15 students and have moved to new classrooms in the main building. PreK4 will have a maximum of 18-19 students. K has moved to a larger space in the new building with three rooms and each room will have a maximum of 20 students. Grade 1 will be split into three sections with a maximum of 17 students in each cohort. They will safely rotate between three classrooms to maintain social distancing. Grades 2-8 will have a maximum of 16-17 students.

***Q: What is the classroom set up? Will children be allowed to play together?***

A: PreK3 and PreK4 will have creative seating arrangements with a chair, lap desk, and a yoga mat for seating. Teachers will sanitize regularly. Kindergarten students will now be in individual desks instead of tables. All three groups will safely rotate in small numbers for any center work or play activities. Grades 1-8 will have individual desks which will be spaced apart 4-6 feet.

***Q: For 6th - 8th grades, will students or teachers be switching classes?***

A: Due to the small class sizes, students will be switching classes but will remain with their grade-level cohort. Teachers will sanitize the rooms in between each class period. In other words, sixth graders will always be with other sixth graders. Teachers will monitor activity and disinfection processes while students are switching to new rooms.

***Q: If you plan to continue this model for the rest of the year, do you plan to at least shuffle kids from the maroon and gold groups so that students can socialize with other classmates?***

A: We would like students to be able to socialize with other classmates, but we will have to revisit this at a later date if this is the case.

***Q: Immaculate Conception School just closed, have we considered utilizing that building?***

A: Yes we did consider this. However, with the hybrid model we would need more personnel to cover locations that are split.

***Q: Will the gym be utilized for classes since there are no inside fall sports?***

A: Yes, physical education classes and indoor recess times will take place in the gym.

***Q: How will napping be handled in PreK?***

A: Students will be appropriately spaced apart by their teachers. Nap mats this year are made of a vinyl material that is able to be wiped down after each use. PreK teachers will let parents know about blankets, etc.

## **Masks**

***Q: Are masks with brand names visible but not prominently displayed acceptable?***

A: Yes.

***Q: For younger students, can mask-exempted children be placed in the same class together?***

A: If our teachers are able to group children in that manner, then they will be happy to do so.

***Q: Are students permitted to wear disposable masks?***

A: Yes. Make sure you send extra in with your students since they retain moisture and sometimes break easily.

***Q: Why are masks not required for kindergarten?***

A: Our mandates were from the state and diocese who only ask for masks in the classroom for students in 3rd through 8th grades. If you would like your child to wear a mask all day, please send a note to your child's homeroom teacher once it is announced.

***Q: Can students wear a face shield instead of a mask?***

A: No; however, a student may choose to wear the face shield in addition to the mask. Face shields are not required.

***Q: Can my child use a lanyard to clip their mask so that it doesn't touch the desk, floor, etc.?***

A: CTTCS will provide lanyards for all students who wish to use them for mask holding purposes.

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

***Q: How will students maintain a 3-6 feet distance during arrival and dismissal?***

A: Teachers on car duty will enforce the mask rules and encourage social distancing as best as they can. We also continue to encourage families to teach their child what 3-6 feet of distance looks like.



## Recess

***Q: Will the middle school have an opportunity to get outside for recess?***

A: Yes. All students will have a recess scheduled at some point throughout the day, outside, weather permitting.

***Q: Will there be more than one class who has recess at a time?***

A: Yes; however, they will be spread out into their own recess “zones.”

## Tuition

***Q: Will you be charging 50% of tuition since students are not in the building every day?***

A: No. Our teachers and staff are still providing lessons and activities for children when they are in and out of the building. Teachers have graciously accepted the double duty that is asked of them during this trying time because they love your children.

***Q: In July, I paid the whole year’s tuition, with the current cancellation policy, I forfeit much more money than someone who paid in two or more installments. Is this a simple oversight in the policy that can be corrected?***

A: The school will only retain half of the July payment. If you decide to unenroll, the remainder will be returned to you.

## Bus

***Q: Is the bus running to Middletown?***

A: We were unable to secure a contract this year with the bus company due to our hybrid schedule. We hope that when a normal schedule returns we will be able to re-negotiate our bus contract.

***Q: If students return to school full-time can the bus contract be revisited?***

A: Yes.

## Piano

***Q: Will piano lessons still be offered?***

A: Yes. More information will come from the piano teacher at some point in August.



## Sanitizing and Disinfecting

***Q: Will students be permitted to have their own personal hand sanitizer at their desk?***

A: Yes, this is encouraged. Please mark your child's personal bottle with their name. Teachers will also have plenty of approved hand sanitizer to give to children.

***Q: What will happen to classrooms during the day in regards to those who switch rooms?***

A: Classrooms that switch cohorts throughout the day will be disinfected by the teachers with the help of students before the next group enters.

***Q: Will desks be cleaned before and after lunch?***

A: Yes.

***Q: Why sanitize their hands as soon as they enter the building and not before?***

A: Some students will be going upstairs and using handrails, doors, etc. We feel that the best time to hand sanitize is when students enter the classrooms.

***Q: There is mention that windows will be open. What about on hot days?***

A: All classrooms are air conditioned but the windows will still be open for even more ventilation.

## Curriculum/Teaching

***Q: Is gym class necessary? With limited in-class teaching, should the focus be on academics?***

A: At CTTCS, we believe in educating the whole child, including their physical development. We believe that physical education is part of this development but we take the safety restrictions very seriously. PE classes will take place outside, weather permitting, or in a small group in our large gymnasium.

***Q: What curriculum changes have been made to allow for success with this hybrid model?***

A: No changes have been made to the curriculum; however, most teachers may choose to teach two lessons in one day with follow up/review/practice/reinforcement taking place at home on the opposite days. With this model, it ensures that all curriculum will be covered by June.

***Q: Can there be one place to have a concise list of all work expected to be completed through the week, including the due dates to which parents can also have access?***

A: Yes. All assignments for all students out of the building will be placed on Google Classroom daily. Students and parents will have access to this. For older students, they will need to check each subject's Google Classroom. A tutorial video will be provided by our technology teacher, Ms. Luce, to help parents.

***Q: Is there an easy way for us to remember the passwords to all websites that students will need to access?***

A: Yes. A program called Class Link has been purchased. Essentially, the student logs in to one site and then they are automatically signed into all apps and websites that the teacher will use. Ms. Luce will send a video tutorial to all families.

***Q: Will teachers go over the same material on Tuesday as they did on Monday?***

A: Yes. The teacher will teach the same lessons to their “maroon” group as he/she does to the “gold” group.

***Q: Will homework be the same?***

A: For students in grades 2-8 who will be working online, we will try to limit the amount of homework that comes home since some of the work will be done online the opposite days to which they are in school. Older students in grades 6-8 may have more homework as they prepare for the rigors of high school. However, it will be mostly focused on studying and reviewing.

***Q: Will Mrs. Gallo’s enrichment math classes still be scheduled?***

A: Yes.

## **Communication**

***Q: What is going to be the protocol for parent and teacher communication?***

A: After the first few weeks of school, if you have the need to meet with your child’s teachers, please email them to set up a time to talk on the phone, via email, or in a live online video format.

## **Disenrollment**

***Q: What is the process for disenrolling my child and will they be guaranteed a seat if we come back before January 4th?***

A: Page 11-12 in the reentry document outlines the specifics regarding parents who choose to unenroll. Although we cannot guarantee available seats in classrooms, we will certainly do our best to accommodate families who re-enroll. There is no fee to re-enroll.

***Q: If I unenroll my child, can the school provide curriculum and books for my child?***

A: If one unenrolls their child, they would need to register their child in a homeschooling program through the State of Delaware or another virtual school. Because our school reports attendance to the state, you would need to make us aware as to where your child is registered so that they are not reported truant by the state. The school is not able to provide (free or at cost) curriculum or books for children who unenroll. Homeschooling programs offer a variety of curricula or materials for student use at home. It should be noted that all students who choose to homeschool or go to a virtual school will need to submit a portfolio of work completed, including assessments, in order to return to a brick-and-mortar school. This is a requirement for all students coming from homeschool or online programs.