

HARVEST BAPTIST ACADEMY

# A BLUEPRINT FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

## *COVID-19 Policies and Guidelines*

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## INTRODUCTION

Harvest Baptist Academy is excited about our plans for the return to school on campus this fall! We have been praying and working collaboratively with local health departments, legal counsel, and our health and safety committee to make informed, thoughtful, and practical plans for the 2020–2021 academic year. The following pages outline our plan for a responsible return. The Lord has blessed HBA for 24 years and we believe the best is yet to come!



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## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

While this season has been challenging, I am excited to discuss our plans for returning to campus this fall and reaching forth toward the great things in store for HBA!

HBA plans to begin our school year on August 31 in a traditional, in-person format, meeting five days per week. **That means our campus will be open, classes will be hosted in our buildings, and we will continue our mission to educate and equip students to develop a heart for God, to cultivate a sound biblical worldview, and to serve the Lord.**

We will be resuming in many of the familiar ways that contribute to the intellectual and spiritual formation of our students. Everyday practices that our students long for, need, and love about our school community like recess, lunch, and time with friends will still be taking place! We believe it is essential for students to have daily instruction and community with teachers and classmates for all aspects of growth—academic, social, spiritual, and physical. All classes will be conducted in a very thoughtful and responsible fashion, following appropriate protocols and guidelines that are in place.

HBA recognizes that while we are shaping hearts and minds, we equally hold a commitment to the well-being of our students and employees. As such, every precaution will be taken to implement additional safety protocols while students are on campus. Our children are a gift to us from God. While we cannot guarantee a students', staff members', or parents' health, we are committed to providing the most safe and healthy environment possible for our children.

The following pages outline HBA's plan for a responsible return to campus. Faculty, staff, and families are required to read this document in order to prepare for school this fall.

The threefold cord is as important now as it has ever been. Thank you for your continued partnership as we seek to serve and honor the Lord in preparing the next generation to live for Him!

**Charlie Rousey**

*Administrator*



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## SIX SIMPLE STEPS FOR A HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMUNITY



### STRENGTHEN THE STAY HOME/SEND HOME STANDARDS.

- Fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Severe and persistent cough, congestion, and/or runny nose
- Breathing that sounds or looks different than normal
- Perfect Attendance Award will be suspended for the fall semester



### SCREEN FOR SYMPTOMS PRIOR TO SCHOOL ENTRY.

- Staff will screen themselves daily prior to leaving home
- Parents/guardians will screen students daily prior to leaving home
- Anyone exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19 will remain at home
- Student temperatures may be taken prior to class entry



### UTILIZE A HEALTH AND WELLNESS ROOM FOR ILL STUDENTS.

- Students who develop symptoms at school will be sent home
- A room is available in the office so that ill students can rest in isolation until pickup
- The ill student will wear an issued surgical mask until off campus
- All staff working with the ill student will wear appropriate PPE



### INCREASE THE SANITIZATION OF THE FACILITIES.

- Training of all staff in proper sanitization techniques
- All student and staff areas sanitized on an ongoing basis
- Use of electrostatic sprayers after each school day
- Use of CDC approved disinfectants and cleaners



### PROMOTE PROPER HAND HYGIENE.

- Hand sanitizer and soap will be made available across the campus
- All students and staff will sanitize their hands twice daily in addition to the common times of hand sanitation



### ENCOURAGE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

- Split larger classes where feasible
- Use larger rooms where feasible
- Maximize student space in classrooms where feasible
- Limit sharing of materials and communal storage
- Modify schedules to minimize traffic and student contact



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## A FEW WORDS ON RISKS TO CHILDREN

- According to the data tracked worldwide since February, children are at extremely low risk from COVID-19. In particular, those under that age of 15 are at much greater risk from the seasonal flu.
- Less than 25% of infected children show any signs of being infected. Those that do show symptoms have a much milder course of illness than adults.
- Children do not appear to be transmitting the disease to adults. In numerous studies of small groups, family settings, and in schools, studies show that transmission from children appears to be minimal, if anything.

## A FEW WORDS ON FACE COVERINGS

We recognize that the research and science regarding face coverings has been and continues to be conflicting regarding support for and opposition against wearing face coverings of some form.

In addition, there is strong guidance from children's health and educational experts that suggest face coverings should not be used in the school setting.

At the same time, we must balance these facts with local health mandates and recommendations. While our position is that face coverings may not be effective in a school setting and may therefore be unnecessary, we recognize that we may need to comply with governmental requirements to some degree. We also recognize that face coverings may be needed in certain situations where social distancing of 3–6 feet cannot be achieved. We trust our community to follow any guidelines regarding the use of face coverings with grace and humility, understanding our collective desire to be in this learning environment together on campus. We will continue to assess and reassess in real-time, making adjustments accordingly.

