



# Heritage Christian School

"United in One Faith, One Hope, One Heritage"

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July 20, 2020

Dear parents and staff of Heritage Christian School,

We have reached the midpoint of the Summer break, and the Board desires to share some information on progress we have made towards opening school safely in the Fall. All of our planning and preparation is going well, and we thank God that we are subject to His plan and counsel in our lives.

- **Preparation.** Earlier this year, the Board formed a COVID Committee to help the Board make plans for the best and safest means of instruction and for ensuring the health of our staff and students. That Committee includes members of the Building, Education, Technology, and Transportation Committees as well as the Administrator and 2 staff members. The goal of this Committee is clear. Prepare the building, buses, curriculum, and staff for in-person instruction beginning on August 31.
- **Guidance.** Our guidance in this preparation is the Return to School Roadmap that was published by the Advisory Council to the Governor. That document can be accessed and read at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI Safe Schools Roadmap FINAL 695392 7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_Safe_Schools_Roadmap_FINAL_695392_7.pdf)

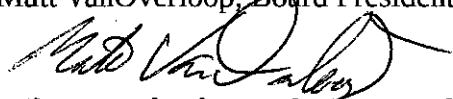
We encourage you to take a look at that document if you have not already. The Council laid out the steps necessary for schools to be open or not be open based on the Phases of the Michigan Safe Start plan. According to this document, if Michigan (or our region) is in Phases 1-3, school *must* be held in a remote manner. Phases 4 and 5 allow for in-person instruction with varying levels of protection put in place. Phase 6 will allow for school to be open with very few changes to past practice. We are currently *in* Phase 4.

- **Focus.** As a Board, we can summarize this document in the following 4 points:
  1. **Building cleaning and proper hygiene.** Added emphasis will be placed on cleaning chemicals, cleaning protocols, and on further protection of those doing the cleaning. Common touchpoints (drinking fountains, toilet and sink handles, light switches and door handles) will require more regular cleaning than they have in the past.
  2. **Protocols in place for dealing with sick children and staff.** In the past we thought our policies were clear and helpful. Going forward, even more emphasis must be placed on pre-screening children before they leave for school, as well as putting proper steps in place for students who become sick while at school. This might require changes to how we communicate with the school community regarding sickness as well.
  3. **Impact on education.** Desk placement, gathering for chapel, moving between classes, and perhaps classes like art or music will look different this coming Fall. When can they return to *normal*? Health experts often answer that either a

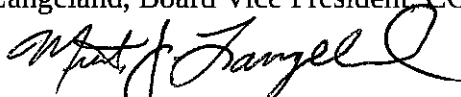
vaccine or a more effective treatment will be needed before we see significant change to these approaches.

4. **Masks.** You will hear more about this in an upcoming communication. For now, know this. In Phases 4 and 5, the government guidelines outline clear conditions when a mask is *required* in schools. We will outline that clearly in our Heritage return to school plan. As an organization, Heritage Christian School is required to submit to the government in all things lawful, and the Heritage Board will be calling on Heritage families to obey as well. Please begin preparing your children for this as well as ensuring that they have a comfortable mask. In the past you have sent them to school with instructions to respect, love, and be kind. Just add one - mask up when so instructed.
- **Commitment.** One of the expectations of the Board is that the coming year will involve all types of instruction being discussed - remote, some blend of in person and virtual, and in person instruction. Our commitment is to upgrade the remote instruction that happened from March-May. As an organization, and as teachers, we have grown from that process, and pledge that what we learned will bring positive change. If you have a constructive way to improve what was done, please communicate that to the Administration or Board leadership who have signed below.
  - **Trust and Responsibility.** In this time, we place our trust firmly in the Lord. This is a time of difficulty sent by Him. God calls us to respond to trials by looking to Him. He also calls us to 2 important responsibilities:
    1. **Love for God.** This can and must be demonstrated right now by respect for government and obedience to their rule. They have been placed in positions of civil leadership for His purpose. They are calling us to do certain things for the good of our physical health and the physical health of others. Following guidelines given by health experts will be one of the best ways that we can act while moving towards a September of in person education.
    2. **Love for the neighbor.** We have been given the opportunity to put our love on clear display. Keeping a borderline sick child home for one more day will show our love for others. Keeping proper distance, wearing a face covering, NOT sharing school supplies, and many other thoughtful gestures will be demonstrations of love and selflessness. Some of this seems to go against our Christian upbringing. It takes conscious thought and a bit of re-training.
  - **Providence.** The HCS graduating class of 2020 chose Proverbs 3:5-6 as their class text. We put that text before you again today. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths".

For the Board of Heritage Christian School,  
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