

Heritage Christian School

Back to School Plan

Approved August 16, 2021

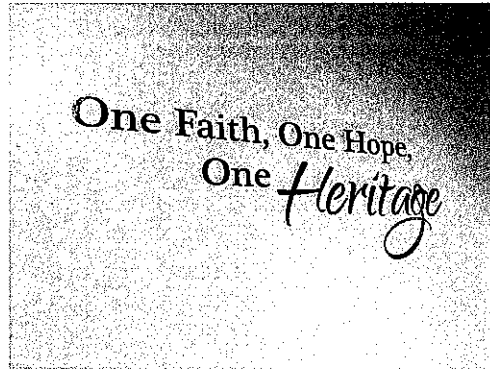


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(Updated January 3, 2022)



Dear members of the Heritage Christian School Community,

This is the Heritage Christian School "Back-to-School" Plan for the school year 2021/2022. Throughout the year we expect to continue to receive guidance from the CDC, MDHHS, OCDPH, and MHSAA. If circumstances require that they suggest changes to policy or procedure, the COVID Committee and the Board will respond as soon as we are able.

While the required mitigations for this year are significantly fewer than the past year, one thing remains critical for the health of *all*. If your child seems ill in the morning, be extra vigilant and mindful of the health of others. Keep them home until you can be sure of the reasons for their illness.

May God bless us and bless Heritage Christian School as we move forward *together!*

In His service,

COVID Committee, Mike Langeland (Chairman)

Erika Aalsma, Steve Bylsma, Jon Drnek, Cara Dykstra, Scott Ensink, Brian Kuiper, Ben Rau

Heritage Christian School Back to School Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Signs will be posted throughout the building regarding hand-washing hygiene and etiquette surrounding coughing and sneezing.
- Handwashing is to occur *frequently* throughout the day by students and staff.
- Whenever possible, students will face the same direction in classrooms. Seating will be assigned.
- If a student exhibits symptoms of concern, he/she will be sent home.
- **Do not** send your child to school if he/she is sick.
- Absences will be monitored closely as to their impact on the whole student body.
- For healthy students or those who are NOT in quarantine, Heritage will only be offering in-person instruction.

FIELD TRIPS and Extra-Curricular events

- All field trips must receive administrator approval and will be subject to the host organizations policies.
- While allowed by the MDHHS, indoor, non-athletic extracurricular events may be held and these events will be subject to all other HCS policies.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SCREENING</u> <u>ASSESSMENT AND</u> <u>COVID 19 SYMPTOMS:</u></p>	<p>We require that ALL Parents please screen your students before they leave for school.</p> <p>Know the following COVID-19-related symptoms impacting <i>consideration</i> for exclusion from school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A fever of 100.4° F or greater ● Cough / runny nose ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ● Chills ● Repeated shaking with chills ● Muscle pain ● Headache ● Sore throat ● New or sudden loss of taste or smell ● Diarrhea ● Nausea <p>Some of these are normal to other illnesses than COVID-19. The Health Department guidelines for when to become concerned about symptoms is posted on the HCS website under the COVID tab.</p> <p>Students and staff will be excluded from in-person instruction if they test positive for COVID-19.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MASKS:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">January 3, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Required:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- on buses by ALL riders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When required, cloth or paper masks must be worn to cover the nose and the mouth closely. ● Much like school supplies, parents will need to supply their child(ren) with cloth masks. There will be some paper masks available in the event that a mask is forgotten, but those will be limited. ● Cloth masks must be washed daily. Paper masks must be dumped after use. ● Masks are required on school buses by CDC order. Students without masks will not be allowed to ride school transportation. Seating will be assigned. ● If there are mask policy changes by government or health organizations, potential changes to the mask policy will be communicated by the COVID Committee.

HEALTH GUIDELINES:

- Students will be required to go home if they have a fever over 100.4°.
- Until picked up by a parent, the student who is sick will be in a location in which other students will not be present.
- Staff and students are not to come to school if they are ill.
- If someone in a person's home has been diagnosed with COVID, please notify the school.
- Students and staff may NOT return to school if they have tested positive for COVID until they meet all current OCDPH guidelines.
- Any student or staff member ***who becomes symptomatic*** after being identified as a 'close contact' will be required to quarantine according to current OCDPH guidelines.
- Automatic quarantine will be *required* for family members.
- Automatic quarantine will be *required* for close contacts IF the school has been determined to be in outbreak status by MDHHS (3 school related cases with no other known origin).
- Students that are out of school due to quarantine will be expected to participate in remote learning if possible.
- All positive cases will be reported to parents IF student(s) came in close contact with the student and/or is in the same class, so that parents may monitor their child(ren).
- Refer to information from the Health Department for more health information. This is posted on the HCS website under the COVID tab.

<p><u>CLOSURES:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Entire classes or the whole school will be closed only by a decision of the Education Committee. ● If a student or family member has tested positive for COVID, school will NOT close. ● If a positive case has been identified, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) will be notified. Officials from the OCDPH will help the school to conduct contact tracing within hours of notification. Students that were in 'close contact' at school will be <i>reported</i> to OCDPH as required by OCDPH guidelines. They will not <i>automatically</i> be required to quarantine.
<p><u>SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is important during this time to take good care of ourselves and one another. ● Spend much individual and family time in the Word. ● Extend love, kindness, and much grace to each other during these times that God has sent upon us. ● Get exercise, rest, and eat healthy. ● If you have concerns, please talk to a friend, a teacher, and people whom you have a relationship with and trust. ● How we (parents and staff) respond will have a significant influence on how our students respond.

Heritage Christian School Building Operations

<p><u>Grades K-8:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students using school (HCS or HPS) transportation are expected to bring their own masks to school, as this is now a school supply. Masks are to be worn anytime students are on the bus. ● Masks <i>MAY</i> be worn by any student or staff member at any time. If this is your parental choice, communicate it to the classroom teacher. Others in the school will be reminded to respect that choice. ● Reasonable spacing will be observed in the classrooms. When possible, students will all face the same direction. ● For close contact reporting purposes, seating will be assigned. ● Following policy changes by government or other health organizations, potential changes to the mask policy will be communicated by the COVID Committee.
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School-wide Operations

<p><u>TRANSPORTATION:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who ride the bus are <u>required</u> to wear masks. Failure to wear a mask will result in lost bus privileges. ● Busses will be <i>equipped</i> with hand sanitizer devices. ● Please follow all guidelines communicated by the Transportation Committee and the drivers.
<p><u>ATHLETICS:</u></p> <p><u>NO MHSAA restrictions as of 08/26/21</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rules for student athletes will conform to all MHSAA guidelines. ● Workout rules and regulations are to be closely followed by athletes and coaches. ● Mask use is optional for athletes unless required by MHSAA. ● Students who do not attend the traditional school setting <u>will not</u> participate in extracurricular activities. ● Spectator size might be restricted according to MHSAA or MDHHS guidelines.

<u>SANITIZING:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All building cleaning and disinfecting will be done carefully and thoroughly each day by janitorial staff.• Additional cleaning or disinfecting will be subject to instructions from OCDPH
<u>FACILITY USE:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor facility rentals will be allowed for outside groups until further notice.