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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding IWA's Return to School Plan

As part of the recent parent survey, we provided the opportunity for parents to share their questions and concerns about our plans for returning to school. We had 93% of our IWA families take part in the parent survey and they shared some outstanding questions and comments for consideration.

Many of the questions focused on the protocols that IWA will put in place should a member of the IWA community be exposed to COVID-19 or test positive for the virus. We continue to work with our health services provider, PSI, and in conjunction with University Hospitals and the local health department to finalize these policies and procedures. Although we have developed plans to address these concerns, we are awaiting final confirmation for some of these protocols and will be sharing that information as soon as it is available.

The following questions and answers represent a summary of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that we received through the parent survey. We greatly appreciate all of our parents' participation and feedback and will continue to keep you informed with updated information as it becomes available.

1) How will the school work to ensure physical distancing in the classrooms, hallways, restrooms, lockers and while changing classes?

We are fortunate that we can maintain 3-6 feet physical distancing recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics in all of the classrooms. In situations where we can only maintain 3 feet physical distancing, a transparent desk divider will be utilized to provide an added layer of protection. The hallways will be marked with colorful Sit Spots (4" carpet circles) to denote proper physical distancing and to serve as a visual reminder for the students in all of the hallways. We will stagger restroom breaks for classes and limit the number of students allowed in the restrooms at any one time. The lockers will be broken into four groups (A, B, C, and D denoted with locker magnets) and students will go to their lockers by their assigned letter to assist with physical distancing. The teachers will also work with the students to coordinate the changing of classes (especially in the Prep Academy) to minimize close contact. Further, there will be signage throughout the building reminding students the importance of safety protocols, including physical distancing, an orientation at the beginning of the year to demonstrate best practices to students, a requirement for all students to wear face coverings while in the hallways and restrooms, and visual cues, such as the Sit Spots. In addition, students will not be using the locker rooms to change for gym. Students may come to school in their gym uniform and remain in those clothes throughout the school day.



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- 2) Does my child have the option to wear a face shield instead of a mask and are there any times when he/she will be required to wear one over the other.

Wearing a face covering plays an essential role in mitigating the risk to our students, faculty, and staff. Recent CDC guidelines (07/23/20) note that cloth facial coverings have been studied and found to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. The CDC has not conducted enough research to comment on the effectiveness of face shields. We understand that some students may be more comfortable in a face shield as opposed to a mask, so we are leaving that decision up to the family; therefore, either cloth facial masks or facial shields that extend below the chin are approved options for students. We encourage families to start having their children practice wearing a facial covering to determine which option works best for them. Also, as noted in the Return to School plan, we will provide regular mask breaks throughout the day when physical distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained. In the event a student forgets to bring a facial covering, or the covering becomes soiled or damaged during the day, a disposable face mask will be provided.

- 3) Does your air conditioning system draw in outside air and will the windows be kept open a bit to ensure fresh air in the classrooms?

Yes, the air conditioning systems that cool the primary and Prep Academy classrooms, as well as St. Joseph's Hall, draw in outside air. However, we will also keep a window open in the classroom to bring in additional outside air. The units that cool the library, music room, and art room are stand-alone wall-mounted units so windows will be opened to ensure the flow of fresh air.

- 4) Will symptoms be checked as students, faculty, and staff enter the building each day?

No, and this is a significant change from our previous position based on newly released guidelines (07/23/20) by the CDC:

- *The CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.*
- *Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.*
- *Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.*

It is imperative that we all work together to ensure the safety and well-being of the IWA community. Therefore, parents will be asked to check for symptoms, including a temperature screening, before leaving for school in the morning. If the child exhibits any potential COVID-19 related symptoms (not related to known pre-existing conditions, such as seasonal allergies), we ask that the child remain at home. Specific guidelines, including questions to ask and symptoms to check, will be provided for families in the coming weeks. All faculty and staff will be required to complete a daily temperature and wellness check. Faculty and staff who exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms (unrelated to a known pre-existing condition, such as seasonal allergies) will be asked to contact their doctor to determine when they can return to school.



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- 5) Did the school consider a 2-day or 3-day per week in-class option instead of a 5-day option for students wanting to return to the classroom?

Yes, we considered several models, including a 2-day or 3-day hybrid option. However, based on our ability to bring all of our students back to the IWA campus and adhere to physical distancing guidelines, as well as input from parents and faculty, we concluded that the 5-day option, with an alternative for simultaneous instruction, was the best option for IWA.

- 6) What additional steps is the school taking to clean and disinfect the building?

IWA is blessed with an outstanding maintenance/custodial team that keeps the school extremely clean. However, we will be adding an additional member to our custodial staff to provide additional cleaning and sanitizing of the school after hours. The newly purchased Clorox-360 Electro-Static cleaning and disinfecting machine will be used to disinfect classrooms, lockers, restrooms, St. Joseph's Hall, the nurse's offices, and other high touch areas. Teachers will be provided with a disinfectant spray specifically rated to kill COVID-19 to use in their classrooms, and students in Grades 3-8 (with parent permission) will be able to wipe their area clean with disinfecting wipes. We are asking families to partner with us to provide disinfecting wipes as an item specified on the supply list. However, we have purchased a supply of disinfecting wipes for each classroom just in case families are unable to purchase these items at the retail level.

- 7) Will IWA still offer extended care and before school care and will it still be in the classrooms?

We understand and appreciate that a number of IWA families depend on before school care and extended care. We are working to offer both programs with some adjustments to allow for required physical distancing. The before school care will still be offered in the classrooms and library; however, we are looking to utilize St. Joseph's Hall for extended care to allow for greater physical distancing. Additional details will be forthcoming but we are committed to finding a way to meet this important need for our IWA families.

- 8) How will IWA address the social and emotional needs of the students?

The school nurse and counselor will be meeting with all of the teachers to provide guidance and age-appropriate resources to help meet the social and emotional needs of the students. We will also be incorporating social and emotional components into our religious instruction and utilizing our Specials courses of art, music, and physical education to provide a therapeutic component. Our teachers will be very mindful of the potential sensitive state of some of our students and will bring any concerns to the parents' attention and offer to refer the student to the school counselor at the parents' request.

- 9) What will you do to prepare the students for their return to school and/or their move to become a simultaneous learner?

The faculty and administration will be developing grade level videos to show the students some of the changes they can expect to see around the school and talk about



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some of the new protocols. Our approach is to offer facts, not fear, and try to get the students comfortable with the changes. Families will also get to walk through the building during the *School Supply Drop-Off Day* on Sunday, August 23, and the administration will be available to answer any questions or concerns. We will also utilize the weekly newsletter to share some of the changes that families can expect to see as we return to school in August. The first few days of school will be utilized to familiarize the students with the changes and new protocols in place. In regards to the students choosing the simultaneous learning option, special training sessions and orientations will be offered to ensure they are comfortable with this model of instruction and understand the expectations prior to the start of the school year. We are also offering parent technology support classes on August 17 and 18 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. These classes will cover Google Classrooms and Praxi; both sessions will contain the same information.

10) Will extra-curricular activities continue to be offered at IWA and can students who choose the simultaneous instruction option participate in these activities?

We are in the process of reviewing all of the extra-curricular activities and working with the moderators to determine if, and how, their activities can be offered given the new constraints. Our goal is to continue to offer the extra-curricular programs as we believe they are an essential part of the IWA experience. In some cases, the offerings may move to an online format, and in other cases we may have to limit the number of participants. We will do our best to accommodate both traditional students and students who choose the simultaneous instruction model.