



Dear 2020-2021 MBS Parents,

We are hard at work preparing to welcome students and employees physically back to campus on Monday, August 17th. What will that look like? Despite the uncertainty that lies with COVID-19 we are committed to implementing a safe, effective and smooth return to our school. The guidelines that we'll be using come from the Louisiana Department of Education and the CDC. As we plan to reopen school, the health and safety of our students and employees remain my top priority. Our school will follow recommended cleaning protocols and we will monitor staff and students for symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. I am asking that all families take temperatures daily before sending children to school and if there is even a hint of sickness or fever, please do not send your child to school. We are living in a new world. In the old world, you would simply give your child Tylenol or cough suppressant, send them to school and hope for the best. No longer do we live in a world where we can accept marginally sick children or employees.

**What families can expect when school reopens as aligned by the Louisiana Department of Education and the CDC:**

- Temperature checks for students, employees and visitors.
- Face coverings for all employees and any adults entering our buildings.
- Social distancing measures practiced during Physical Education, Music, Chapel and Lunchtime.
- Adjusted school arrival and dismissal routines so as not to pile up at the front door for temperature checks daily.
- All students will be required to wash hands frequently throughout the day.
- All classes will stop every hour on the hour and the teacher, who will have cleaning supplies, will spray door handles, light switches and all student desk tops.
- According to the LDOE (Louisiana Department of Education), no class should be larger than 25 including adults. (Which is great news for us because our class sizes are all under that number.)
- Out of an abundance of caution, I will be requiring all middle school students to wear face masks arriving and leaving school. (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Per this year, our middle school teachers will rotate class periods so that students will not need to change classes which means middle school students will not be required to wear masks in their classroom.
- All lunches will be eaten in individual classrooms from PK4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Middle school will be the only students eating lunch in our cafeteria because it's a large enough area for us to distance 45 students.
- There will no chapel in the church this year because of social distancing but we will have chapel video lessons from Pastor Dan through our classroom projectors.
- Music will still take place this year but without the singing. I will be purchasing enough keyboards for all classes to learn how to play the piano in place of singing this year. Our traditional choir will not be singing but I have enough bells to have 22 students form a school bell ensemble. If your student is one of the students that has been working on their 2, 3 or 4 year trophy in choir, our bell choir will count towards that goal.
- P.E. will take place outside one class at a time per coach and any balls or equipment used will be cleaned between classes.
- Any student identified as having COVID-19 will be required to follow the CDC's guidelines for returning to school. MBS will also contact the entire class and ask that they follow the same guidelines.

Emailed July 1, 2020



### **School Arrival & Dismissal**

Now, how will school look every day? We are asking that all PK4 and Kindergarten students enter in the front door of the school between the times of 8:15 and 8:30 for temperature checks and check in. If you are later than 8:30, you must wait until we are finished checking in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Between 8:30 – 8:45, all 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders will check in through the front doors. If you have multiple children between PK4 – 5<sup>th</sup>, of course we will check in your family all at once.

Middle school students will check in between the hours of 8:15 - 8:30 through the back door of our school. Any students arriving after 8:30, will have to wait until all other students are checked in before they can be checked into school.

*You can see how complicated this is going to be for all of us and it is highly important that all of you arrive on time. It's extraordinary times and so we are doing extraordinary things to make school run as smoothly as possible. In the past, there were a number of you who consistently came in late. Please be aware that these procedures cannot be changed in order to maintain the health and safety of our families. All parents must escort their child to the appropriate temperature check-in location and fill out the sign in sheet. Please be advised that any student with a temperature over 100 degrees will not be allowed in school for the next 24 hours. Any student coming down with fever during the day, must be picked up immediately. Any adult entering our buildings must have a facial covering and we are asking that your child come with all their supplies needed for the day at drop-off (lunch, backpack, folder, homework, etc.) so as to keep the flow of traffic to a minimum.*

PK4 & Kindergarten Dismissal will be through the school lobby between 3:00 and 3:15 p.m. No parents will be allowed in the school cafeteria.

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be dismissed through the school lobby between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. No parents will be allowed upstairs.

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be dismissed through the back stairwell between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. All middle school parents will pick up their students from the back parking lot.

The school lobby will not be open to parents until your student's dismissal time.

### **Before & After Care**

The procedures explained above will be in place at the front door temperature check-in during 7:00 – 8:15 a.m. Before Care hours.

After Care pickup during the hours of 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. will be in the school lobby.

Well, if the above information is not enough to scare you let me give you some good news. God is still in control of this world that we are all a part of. He loves us and cares for us and believes in us. Through this pandemic, all of us have had plenty of time to consider our lives, our faith and our families. What's best for our families as we move forward? I feel so sorry for those students who are not lucky enough to have had the upbringing that I was able to provide for my children in a Christian school from PK – 12th grade. What a difference it has made in all of their lives. I am sure that I am a little biased here but I believe that children need social interaction and they need it now. Trying to weigh the cost of COVID-19 against participating in on-site school is obviously a personal decision. Please be aware that every precaution that can be taken, will be taken at MBS this year. I believe that God has a window of protection over our students and our school and if we can ever do anything for you or your family, please do not hesitate to call upon me. Looking forward to seeing all of you in just a few short weeks. God speed and Go Wildcats!

**Mr. Riggs, Head of Schools @ Memorial Baptist School**

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Emailed July 1, 2020