



# GRACE ACADEMY

---

## Grow in Grace

### **COVID Operational Plan**

#### **Purpose**

This plan provides clarity for parents as to what school life will look like amidst the ongoing COVID-19 situation. No precautions can completely prevent the transmission of diseases. However, this plan takes into consideration guidance and recommendations from the York County office of Emergency Management, the PA Department of Health (DOH), the PA Department of Education (PDE), the CDC, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), as well as the input from our school's legal attorney. Additionally, all reopening guidelines take into consideration the spiritual, emotional, physical, and academic well-being of our students and staff.

#### **Benefits of Our Unique Educational Model**

Many schools are scrambling to figure out how to adjust class schedules and daily routines to accommodate re-opening guidelines. Grace Academy's unique educational model already incorporates many of these recommended elements, such as:

- Smaller class sizes
- Spacing between students (3-6') in elementary and higher grades when feasible
- Cohorted classes to minimize crossover among children and adults in school
- Modified weekly schedule - only 3 days at school per week
- Staggered daily scheduling (preschool & elementary)
- Students sit in assigned seats for lunches, chapels, and other events when feasible.

As a non-public, parochial school, we have greater flexibility in determining which guidelines we implement at our school, which positions us to encounter fewer disruptions and maintain a greater sense of normalcy. The Re-Opening guidelines listed below reflect a balanced approach between recommended guidelines for all schools, and which guidelines are relevant to our specific school model.

## **General Guidelines:**

- Staff and students will meet in-person for classroom instruction.
- Temperature screenings will NOT be required upon entrance to school.
- Students or staff exhibiting signs of illness are expected to stay home. If someone begins to exhibit symptoms at school, he or she will be sent to the office for care and evaluation.
- Staff will model and reinforce good hygiene habits with students along with additional signage reminders as well (turn and cover mouth/nose when sneezing/coughing, handwashing, etc.).
- Staff and students will NOT be required to wear face coverings.
- Utilization of outdoor spaces for learning when possible.
- Limiting unnecessary visitors in the building.
- Parents will be encouraged to consider ways to ensure optimal health and strength of immune systems. (i.e. dietary changes, nutritional supplements, etc.)
- Staff and students will have regular opportunities for hand washing and access to hand sanitizer.
- Students WILL have access to recess time as normal. Fresh air, sunlight, and exercise help build healthy bodies and strong immune systems. Students will clean hands (handwashing, hand sanitizer) afterwards.
- All frequently-touched surfaces will be disinfected regularly, including but not limited to: drinking fountains, doorknobs, stair railings, desktops, learning spaces.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use individual water bottles from home.
- Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible.
- The office will communicate with families in a timely manner in the event of a direct health concern to our school community.
- In the event there would be a need to re-implement our distance learning plan, additional guidance will be provided to families in a timely manner.

Policies are subject to change if deemed in the best interest of our school community. Additionally, our school attorney has advised us to have all parents sign a “Waiver of Liability” form with regard to the risks of their children being exposed to a communicable disease while attending Grace Academy. We will continue to communicate with parents as additional guidance and details come forth. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns.