

## **CLS Response to COVID: August 11, 2021**

After reading the guidance provided by the CDC, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland State Department of Education, and the Carroll County Health Department, we have formulated our initial COVID protocols for the opening of school. We will continue to carefully watch the changing guidance, as well as the positivity rate in Carroll County and the emergence of new COVID variants. These protocols may change based on new data and circumstances. The most important concern is keeping our students and staff safe and healthy and continuing to provide in-person instruction. Before your child can attend school at CLS, you are required to sign the COVID Waiver, acknowledging the risks inherent with school attendance, even with safety protocols in place. We will continue to take a moderate, common sense, and responsible approach to our COVID guidelines and the safety of our school community.

### **COVID protocols include but are not limited to:**

- Facemasks are optional for students, staff, and others in the building except during high risk activities or when social distancing is not possible. Examples of these activities include, but are not limited to, singing indoors, hallway locker changes, and health room visits. Everyone needs to have clean masks that fit appropriately and can be worn correctly when instructed to do so. The CDC guidelines recommend masks for students in school. If you choose to allow your child to not wear a mask during those mask-optional times, you are choosing not to follow the CDC guidance which at this time is your choice as a parent.
- We will continue to sanitize tables, seating, and other high touch surfaces throughout the day, including when a new group of students is coming into the space.
- We will follow social distancing guidelines where practical and possible.
- We will utilize outdoor classroom and eating areas to maximize fresh air and minimize capacity in the building.
- We will minimize shared surfaces by continuing to utilize individual art kits, math tool boxes, and other individual materials as often as possible.
- Students in grades 2-8 will have individual, school issued Chromebooks to minimize cross contamination with technology.
- Students and staff will frequently practice appropriate hand hygiene with frequent opportunities to wash hands and use hand sanitizer.

**In order to promote and maintain a healthy school environment, parents must:**

- Keep students home when they are sick, whether or not they have COVID symptoms. Sick children cannot come to school. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or more, has vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours, is coughing or sneezing, has a headache or sore throat, or is too tired to actively participate in a full school day, they need to stay home.
- When your child is sick, email or call the school office to let us know. It is helpful if we know what their symptoms are so that we can watch classmates or siblings for symptoms and track any illness trends in our community.
- If your child or anyone in your household has been exposed to someone with COVID, contact the school for information regarding quarantine and testing.
- If your child or anyone in your household has COVID-like symptoms, contact the school for information regarding quarantine, testing, and alternative diagnoses.
- Make sure that your child comes to school each day with at least two clean and properly fitting masks.
- Update your child's medical information in RenWeb so that we are aware of pre-existing conditions including asthma, allergies, food sensitivities, etc.
- Use the family trip form to inform the school of any planned travel. We will contact you regarding any travel advisories and the potential need to test and/or quarantine after your trip. We will continue to watch the changing guidance and will make the best decisions to protect the health and safety of the school community.
- Practice good hand hygiene and common sense when you are out and about. Wear masks as necessary. Avoid large crowds or high risk situations.