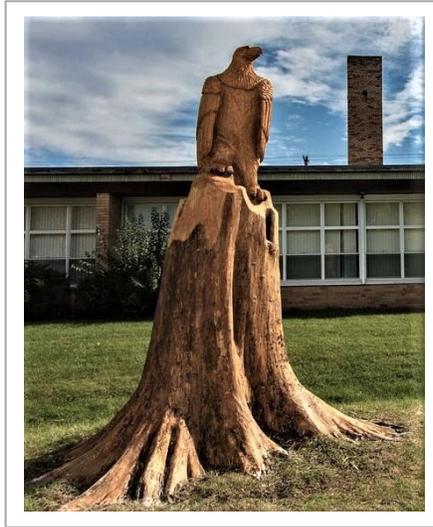




North Heights Christian Academy

Christ-centered ♦ Academically Strong

The Re-Opening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year



Letter from Mr. Taylor

We are so excited to welcome you back to NHCA in person! What a great honor and privilege we have to learn and grow together in community! The teachers, staff, and I are praying that God will give us all new strength to SOAR like eagles in this time of change. God will sustain and provide for all we need!

Our theme this year is Soar!

The NHCA theme SOAR is connected to the Bible verse Isaiah 40:31. God gives us the ability to SOAR with him in our life situations. The staff is excited to help students SOAR with the Lord through this new year of learning.

But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31 NLT

Learning Options

NHCA will offer two Christ-centered options for educating our students: on campus five days per week and at home five days per week.

1. ON CAMPUS

- ◆ Students will attend the class in person five days a week with their teacher leading lessons.
- ◆ Enhanced health protocols, procedures, and physical distancing will be implemented. At the same time we understand the reality of teaching and the need for social interactions and age-appropriate expectations.
- ◆ Our staff has been developing plans to have small groups and use the outdoors for various activities.
- ◆ All employees are required to self-screen daily. Visitors, volunteer, vendor, and parents are required to self-screen when entering the building. Parents are required to screen their children daily.

2. AT HOME

- ◆ This option is available for students who have pre-existing health conditions, concerns about returning physically to the classroom, or for various other reasons that require a student to stay home for an extended period of time such as exposure, diagnosis, family quarantine, etc.
- ◆ Students will learn online via recorded videos, live streaming, assignments, or books outlined in teacher's lesson plans. (The specific delivery of lessons may vary by teacher or grade level.)
- ◆ Kindergarten through 3rd grade will begin with recorded video lessons. There may be some variations in format, based on the teacher's preference, as the year progresses.
- ◆ If families choose to begin the school year learning at home, they should contact Lisa Lanzi, lisa.lanzi@nhca-school.org, as soon as possible.
- ◆ On-line lessons will be provided on an as-needed basis.
- ◆ Teachers will contact students about their work and ways to connect virtually.
- ◆ For at home learning, expect there to be a period of time at the beginning of the year for lessons to reach full operation.

NHCA TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

- ◆ Google Classroom
- ◆ Jupiter Ed
- ◆ Seesaw (K-3)

Face Coverings

According to Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-81, schools, including private schools, must require that all staff, K-8 students, and visitor's wear face coverings inside the school building.

NHCA will provide each student with a face covering to be used at school only.

People exempted from the face covering requirement

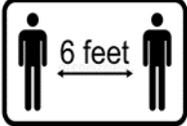
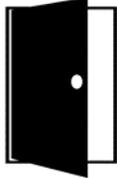
- The Safe Learning Plan 2020-21 – A Localized, Data Driven Approach states: *“Face coverings should not be placed on anyone under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.”*

When can a face covering can be temporarily removed

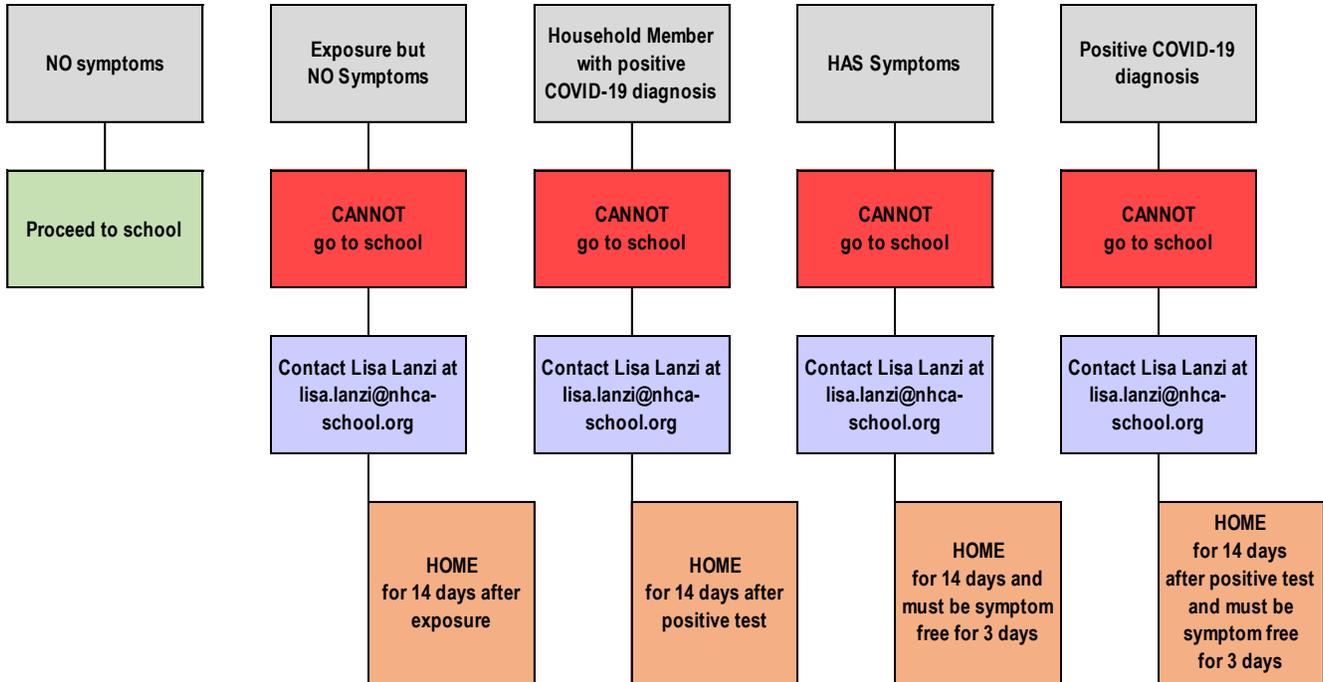
- While eating or drinking, if you can maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others who are not a member of the same party.
- When participating in organized sports where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult.
- When participating in indoor physical exercise—such as in a gym or fitness center—where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult, as long as social distancing can be maintained at all times.
- When outdoors or participating in outdoor recreation (e.g., exercising, walking, gardening) for private purposes.
- When giving a presentation or lecture, providing that social distancing is maintained.
- During practices or performances in an indoor space when a face covering cannot be used while playing a musical instrument, provided that social distancing is maintained.

For more information on Face Coverings Guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health, please visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>.

Health & Safety Measures

	<p>All students must be screened at home. Check temperature, for symptoms, and COVID-19 exposure. All staff will screen at school.</p>		<p>New lunch and chapel protocols are in place.</p>
	<p>As much as possible, physical distancing protocol will be used for indoor rooms and hallways.</p>		<p>All shared drinking fountains are turned off. Water bottle fillers are still available. Bring your own water bottle each day.</p>
	<p>Increased classroom cleaning procedures will be implemented. Desks will be sanitized each day.</p>		<p>Large group gatherings will be limited.</p>
	<p>Increased cleaning for high-touch surfaces and bathrooms.</p>		<p>Short-term quarantine space for students & staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms has been created.</p>
	<p>Increased hand sanitizing throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available outside each classroom and throughout the building.</p>		<p>Visitors, parents, and volunteers will be limited and required to complete a health screening. Contact your child's teacher for how you can virtually help.</p>
	<p>Increased hand washing frequency for students and staff will be implemented.</p>		<p>Parents will read the <i>Family Commitment Letter</i> and sign & return the <i>Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus</i>.</p>

COVID-19 Health Screening Flowchart



COVID-19 Health Definitions

Exposure

If you have been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes. Siblings of an infected person must stay home for 14 days. Please note that an entire classroom may not necessarily be considered exposed to an infected person. Exposure may be considered limited to those in immediate proximity of an infected person.

Symptoms

- ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING*
 1. Fever (>100.4 °F) or chills
 2. A new, persistent cough
 3. Shortness of breath
- OR TWO OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING*
 1. Gastrointestinal symptoms of nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 2. A new sore throat
 3. New muscle aches
 4. New loss of smell/taste
 5. Congestion/runny nose

*If you answer “yes” to any of these screening questions, we ask that you stay home, stay away from other people, and contact your health care provider and Lisa Lanzi at lisa.lanzi@nhca-school.org.

Is it COVID-19?

COVID-19 symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. This may be similar to other illnesses, like the flu and common cold. Many people with COVID-19 have mild or few symptoms, and some may have no symptoms at all.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested. Talk to your health care provider or visit mn.gov/covid19. For medical emergencies, such as difficulty breathing, call 911.

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19	FLU	COLD	ALLERGIES
Cough	Often	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes
Fever	Sometimes	Often	Rarely	Never
Body aches	Sometimes	Often	Rarely	Never
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rarely	Rarely
Headache	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes
Fatigue	Sometimes	Often	Sometimes	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Loss of taste	Sometimes	Rarely	Rarely	Rarely
Diarrhea	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Never
Chest pain or pressure	Rarely	Rarely	Never	Never
Runny nose	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Often
Sneezing	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Often
Watery eyes	Never	Never	Never	Often

Daily Screening – Before Coming to School

Screening

- ◆ To help our staff, student body, and families, parents are asked to screen and take each NHCA child's temperatures (temperatures need to be below 100.4 °F) before coming into the building.
- ◆ Staff will also self-screen their symptoms and temperature as they enter the building. Visitors, volunteer, vendor, and parents are required to self-screen when entering the building.
- ◆ Please see the charts on pages 5 & 6 for guidance regarding screening at home.
- ◆ If a symptom cannot be attributed to any other health condition, please stay home, contact Lisa Lanzi, lisa.lanzi@nhlc.org, and contact your health-care provider.

Extra-curricular (Sports)

- ◆ TBD. Sports will be subject to the decision of the Catholic Athletic Association. For more information at visit <http://www.stpaulcaa.org/>.

Lunch

- ◆ Students will primarily use the cafeteria on a rotating basis with social distancing for eating lunch. A longer school-wide lunch block and extra lunch periods will accommodate smaller groups in the cafeteria.
- ◆ We will continue to offer hot lunches. Students will only pick up a tray prepared with food, drink, utensils, napkins, already in place. Students will not be serving their own food. The Health Department safety precautions regarding food preparation and service recommendations will be followed.

Chapel

- ◆ Mrs. Fink will continue to lead chapel.
- ◆ Chapel will be broadcasted into the classrooms and made available for those learning at home in a video.
- ◆ Mrs. Fink will continue to lead chapel.
- ◆ Chapel will be held live in the Roseville Sanctuary on Fridays. For the first few months, only middle school students will attend in person in groups of 20 or less, observing social distancing, while a livestream is broadcast to the kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms.
- ◆ Masks will be worn during every chapel service.
- ◆ Students will be encouraged use worship actions to songs rather than sing.
- ◆ Parents are welcome to join our livestream broadcasts from their homes through the NHCA website.
- ◆ The tentative date for our first chapel is Friday, September 18.

Recess

- ◆ Nature, the outdoors, and play are important components of a child's learning. We have learned that the viral spread can have a lower risk outdoors. Students will have recess and other outdoor learning experiences when appropriate.
- ◆ Precautions will be taken keeping classroom groups together, using classroom specific play equipment, sanitizing, and social distancing. Staff will encourage students to have safe and quality playtime through appropriate social interactions.

Passing Time, Hooks, and Lockers

- ◆ Passing times will be staggered by classroom division to reduce congestion in the hallways.
- ◆ Use of lockers and hooks during the day will be limited.

Restrooms

- ◆ Restrooms will be sanitized multiple times a day.
- ◆ A staggered restroom schedule will be used to limit use to one class at a time.
- ◆ Students and staff will wear mask while in the restrooms.

Art, Computer, Music, and PE

- ◆ We will be offering our specialist classes. Art classes will be in the art room, computer classes will be in the computer room, music classes will be in the music room, and PE will be outdoors or in the gym.

Transportation

- ◆ As of this writing, we are waiting to see how District 623 handles their non-public bussing.

Pick Up/Drop Off

- ◆ Students will be asked to enter and leave through specific doors to help separate student traffic. A specific plan is TBD.

Student/Teacher Absence

- ◆ We understand that due to the current circumstances, more absences may result this school year for both students and teachers. NHCA is currently working on a plan to accommodate necessary teacher absences.

Academy Kids (AK)

- ◆ AK will still be offered for \$2.50 per ½ hour.
- ◆ Morning AK start at 7:00 AM. If necessary teachers may be asked to supervise students in their classrooms during morning AK hours. AK fees are still applicable.
- ◆ There will be no morning snacks offered.
- ◆ Afternoon AK begins at 3:10 and end at 6:00 PM.
- ◆ During afternoon AK, students will be offered prepackaged snacks. Only water will be available. Each student should bring a water bottle to afternoon AK.

How Can Parents & Families Help?

- ◆ Our school would be blessed if people would pray for our students, their families, our staff and the families of our staff members, for wisdom and that our school will continue to be a light this year. Be led by the Holy Spirit to pray as He leads.
- ◆ Ask the teachers if there is a way to volunteer in the classroom. The school is trying to be mindful of how many individuals are within the building to help all stay healthy. There may be some ways to help that could be done from home.
- ◆ Please contact Mr. Taylor at jeff.taylor@nhca-school.org if you would like to support the school financially.

The NHCA teachers and staff are praying for you. We are excited to welcome you back in just a few short weeks! God's blessings to you as you wrap up this summer and prepare for the fall.

NORTH HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY – A ministry of North Heights Lutheran Church

North Heights Christian Academy and North Heights Lutheran Church has concluded that what is best for our students is that we open 2020-21 school year on-campus and in-person classes five days a week. The current COVID-19 pandemic has prompted unprecedented reflection and discussion as to how we can best educate our children, while keeping them emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually healthy. We are developing a well-thought out system of health and safety precautions that will begin day 1.

Our number one goal is to provide Christian education that is Christ centered while healthy and safe for our students and staff and to continue school together and in-person. On July 22, Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-81 which include guidelines and requirements that are incorporated in to our comprehensive COVID-19 PLAN. That plan is posted in the academy office and available for review. We know that things change quickly in the midst of this pandemic. Therefore, know our plan will be updated during the school year to reflect additional guidance, and Executive Orders as needed.

North Heights Christian Academy will offer two options for our families and their children:

1. Students are on campus 5 days a week
2. Students are at home viewing recorded videos of all their classes and quality online learning.

If the need arises to transition the whole school to distance learning, be assured there will be a quality distance learning program available to all students.

We have invested in video technology that will allow students who are ill or are quarantined and must stay home to keep up with their classmates. All specialist classes are planned, including art, music and physical education.

North Heights Christian Academy has one tuition schedule covering both in person and distance learning or any combination. The specific tuition and payment terms and conditions are covered in your Tuition Agreement.

FAMILY COMMITMENT LETTER

To the families registered for in in-person instruction,

Please read and complete the digital form of this Family Commitment Letter. North Heights Christian Academy requires a signed commitment form/letter on file from each family before the start of the first day of school for their children.

1. Prior to each school day, I will assess my student for COVID-19 symptoms based on the COVID-19 Health Screening. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include: • fever (+100.0) • chills • sore throat • cough • headache • loss of taste or smell • shortness of breath • muscle pain • gastrointestinal (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea). I will also assess other contagious illness-related symptoms. I will commit to keeping my student(s) home from all school activities if these symptoms are present. North Heights Christian Academy will conduct random screening during the school year
2. I will not send my student to school if I am aware that he/she has been exposed to someone who has a positive diagnosis for COVID-19.
3. I will contact the school immediately by emailing Lisa.Lanzi@NHCA-SCHOOL.ORG if I am keeping my student(s) home due to illness.
4. Should my student develop symptoms while at school, I will ensure someone is available to pick him/her up promptly if we are contacted by the school to do so.
5. If a member of our household has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, I will notify Lisa.Lanzi@NHCA-SCHOOL.ORG or 651-797-7903

Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. North Heights Christian Academy has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, we cannot guarantee that you or your child will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, participation could increase your risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I or my child may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participation; and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may experience or incur in connection with me or my child's participation. I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless North Heights Lutheran Church, its employees, agents, and representatives,

School activities and sports: I represent that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury or illness suffered or cause while participating in school activities and further agree to bear the costs of such injury or illness to myself or child. I further represent that I and my Child have no medical or physical condition which could interfere with our safety in this activity, or else I am willing to assume – and bear the costs of – all risks that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition.

PLEASE PRINT

1. Student's First Name: _____ Student's Last Name: _____

2. Student's First Name: _____ Student's Last Name: _____

3. Student's First Name: _____ Student's Last Name: _____

4. Student's First Name: _____ Students Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please contact Jeff Taylor or Lisa Lanzi with any questions you may have.

God bless you and thank you for your patience and support.

Please pray regularly for our students, teachers, staff, and families and be patient and gracious with one another in these incredibly challenging times.

