



Anthony T. T. Jaccaci
Head of School

Dear Parents:

"We stand together, strong in our devotion!"
CCDS Alma Mater

Next Wednesday, Country Day will begin its 2020-21 academic year. It will undoubtedly be unlike any year in our school's history, but together, we can make it a year of healthy growth and meaning for our students. On our first day of school, most students will join us on campus while others will join from home through our hybrid classrooms. Approximately 10% of our student body has elected to learn remotely. Regardless of where the students are, the teachers, staff, and administrators have been preparing tirelessly this summer and are excited to start another year of learning.

School will feel different for our students when they arrive on campus. Program modifications developed to minimize the transmission of Covid-19, such as health screening, masking, physical distancing, and frequent hand washing, will help us with our efforts but will require sacrifice and accepting inconveniences.

I often say, "it's all about the kids," and I truly believe this is the north star of our decision making. As a member of the CCDS community, this year, unlike any other, we will need to come together for the good of our student body and consider the steps we each must take to protect ourselves and others.

Parent-School Covenant

Two years ago, the school created the parent-school covenant to outline what the parents could expect of Country Day, and in return what the school expects of its parents. We greatly value the partnership we have with our families because every day we witness how working together improves student learning and experience.

This year, the parent-school covenant has been updated to include a Covid-19 addendum outlining expectations (e.g., adhering to quarantine guidelines, keeping your children home if they have Covid symptoms, etc.). The choices we make will have a direct impact on school operations, and compliance with our health and safety policies, in particular, will determine the school's ability to keep our campus open and safeguard the health and safety of our students and staff.

We ask that you read the updated [covenant](#) and familiarize yourself with the new guidelines designed to keep Country Day healthy and strong.

CCDS Covid-19 Rapid Response Team

The Covid-19 Rapid Response Team will oversee the school's protocols for safe and healthy practices and manage the school's response to cases of Covid-19 in our community. A key part of a successful year ahead will be open and transparent communication with you. You can expect to receive

communications from this group throughout the year and may contact them at Covid19Safety@countryday.net.

Quarantines:

Travel Quarantine

Travel increases one's risk of exposure to Covid-19. This year, one of the most important ways we can safeguard our students and staff will be our vigilance in adhering to guidelines for quarantining upon return from travel, either internationally or to a state with a high Covid-19 positivity rate. We must be steadfast in upholding these guidelines as they will greatly enhance our chances to keep campus open.

Please be prepared to have your child quarantine for 14 days if he or she travels internationally or to a state with a positivity rate of 15 % or higher. [Click here](#) for a map of current states included in this quarantine requirement. We will continue to stay apprised of evolving travel guidance, and we will adjust our policies accordingly.

If your child must travel to an international destination or a restricted state, please inform your divisional office of your child's return date so we may support their remote learning during the 14-day quarantine period.

We understand parents may need to travel without their children to international destinations or states considered restricted by Ohio. If this is the case, your child does not need to quarantine, however we ask that you follow [Covid-19 transmission risk reduction practices](#) upon your return.

Quarantine Reporting

To plan for the opening of school, please [click here](#) to submit information if your child is currently quarantining due to travel or close contact with an individual who tested positive for Covid-19.

Face Coverings

One of the most effective ways Country Day can mitigate the spread of Covid-19 on campus will be through adherence to its [face covering policy](#). We strongly encourage you to purchase multi-layered, cloth coverings that fit snugly. Masks with vents or exhalation valves allow unfiltered exhaled air to escape and will not be permitted. Gaiters will be allowed, provided they are a minimum of 2-ply material. Fleece gaiters may not be worn.

We ask that you help your child practice with their mask at home before the start of school. The mask must cover both the mouth and nose and should be removed and replaced in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#).

Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

At the beginning of each day, a large number of personnel will be assigned to our screening stations to make entry into the school buildings safe and efficient. These individuals will return to their normal responsibilities once the school day begins. We ask parents and students to respect the commitments of our staff and ensure students arrive by 8:30 a.m., at which time the screening stations will

close. We realize the strict enforcement of arrival times may be inconvenient but ask for your understanding so we can properly staff and monitor entries to the school buildings.

Students who leave before the end of a school day will not be allowed to return until the following day.

CCDS Medical Advisory Board

Country Day has been fortunate to secure the talents and counsel of leading health experts to guide the development of our new health protocols and practices and ensure they adhere to guidance from federal, state, and local authorities. [Click here](#) to read full bios of our advisory board:

Jennifer Forrester, MD – Dr. Forrester is an infectious disease specialist, practicing doctor, and an associate chief medical officer for UC Health.

Susan Sprigg, MPH – A CCDS parent, Ms. Sprigg is a public health and clinical specialist who serves as a consultant for CDC/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Cincinnati Health Department.

Aparna D. Shah, MD – A CCDS parent and member of the board of trustees, Dr. Shah is a urogynecology specialist and a program director for fellowship training at Christ Hospital.

Jackie Fiora, RN – Ms. Fiora is entering her third year as Country Day’s school nurse having served in a similar role in the Madeira School District and working as a nurse at Mercy Anderson and University of Cincinnati hospitals.

Kathy Scheidler, Ph.D. – One of Country Day’s school psychologists, Dr. Scheidler has 25 years’ experience supporting students’ social-emotional concerns and their mental well-being.

Expanded Summer Professional Development

During the past two weeks, our teachers have been engaging in additional training. They are adapting to modifications to the delivery of our on-campus instruction, refining their online teaching know-how in the event we shift to remote learning, and familiarizing themselves with the many new safety guidelines in place to promote a healthy learning environment.

I am deeply appreciative of our faculty’s willingness to shorten their traditional and well-deserved summer break, particularly after the frenzied pace of last spring, and to advance their skills to ensure the progression of our students’ learning. They have been the consummate team players, and our community is fortunate to benefit from their selfless dedication.

New CCDS Faculty

Last but certainly not least, I invite you to join me in warmly welcoming new faces to our faculty and staff! This year, we are proud to announce the following new members of our talented team:

US

Julie Crutcher	Learning Specialist
Laura Gunn	Math
Jill Jaksetic	Science
Patti Raymond	Math

Nicholas Rose Theater

MS

Christine Bridge English and US English
Tiffanie Clark Spanish
Sujin Kim Music

LS

Allan Pestotnik Fourth Grade
Amy Scott Speech & Language Pathologist

Staff

Mark Morawski Head of Lower School
Greg Sumler Facilities
Marion Wallace Nurse

Welcome to Team Country Day!

The start of school is about 100 hours away, and everyone on campus is counting down the minutes until we finally regroup to start Country Day's 95th academic year.

Welcome to another great year at Country Day!

Sincerely,



Anthony T. T. Jaccaci
Head of School