



Anthony T. T. Jaccaci
Head of School

June 26, 2020

Dear Country Day Families,

Country Day intends to welcome our students back to campus on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, the first day of the school's 95th academic year. School will open with on-campus instruction for students across all divisions, unless reduced capacity or closure is mandated by the State of Ohio or Hamilton County.

We are fortunate to have a 62-acre campus and are working on plans to accommodate students, while observing health and safety guidance from federal, state, and local authorities. If the prevailing guidance on August 19 requires us to limit capacity in our buildings, priority will be given to our lower school students, ensuring that they can benefit from an in-person program.

In advancing our re-opening plans, our [guiding principles](#), laid out in my update of May 29, 2020, have informed our efforts. For the full text of the May 29 update [click here](#).

The information below is provided to help you prepare for the new school year. The evolving Covid-19 pandemic requires us to be nimble and ready to adapt our behaviors to mandated restrictions. As such, the information below is subject to adjustment should the need arise.

Health and Safety Policies

Maintaining the health and safety of all individuals on campus will be our priority in delivering in-person learning to our students. While we cannot guarantee a Covid-19-free environment, we have created new health and safety policies to protect—as far as reasonably possible—our students, their families, and our teachers and staff.

The policies linked below have been developed from protocols advised by the CDC to best reduce the spread of Covid-19. These policies will be strictly enforced for all individuals on campus.

- **Face Covering Policy** – All individuals on campus will be required to wear cloth face masks (or equivalent face covering) to protect themselves and others. Please review the [Face Covering Policy](#) for details and exceptions for health reasons and/or age (under two years old).
- **Social Distancing** – All individuals on campus will be required to maintain social distancing as set by CDC and ODE guidelines. To achieve this, we will be repurposing campus spaces (including the outdoors) as well as making alterations to how we use furniture.
- **Communicable Disease Policy** – Students, faculty, and staff will adhere to the school's [Communicable Disease Policy](#) and remain off campus if they display symptoms of Covid-19 or any other communicable disease.
- **Daily Screening Procedures** – All students and visitors entering campus will have their temperature taken and be required to answer brief health questions. These screening procedures will take place prior to entering the buildings. Please review the [Daily Screening Procedures](#) for details.

- **Health & Hygiene Protocols** – Frequent handwashing and enhanced cleaning of our facilities will be undertaken. Full details are available in our [Health & Hygiene Protocols](#).
- **Student Cohorts** – To the degree possible, we will arrange students in groups to prevent the intermingling of students, teachers, and staff, so in the event of a positive case of Covid-19, we can enact a limited closure of program.

A healthy campus requires partnering with all members of our school and will be most successful if it is a true community effort. We understand changes to behavior require getting use to and, in some cases, may be inconvenient. However, we must adopt a shared sense of duty to best protect our community. The school will strictly enforce the health and safety policies described above. Anyone persistently and knowingly disregarding these policies may not remain on campus.

Academic Program

Country Day academics will be offered on campus for our students. For students who have a health condition putting them in a high-risk category for Covid-19, the school will work with their families to provide remote instruction during periods. Families with a child who needs accommodation should contact divisional offices as soon as possible.

Accommodations will also be made for a child who becomes ill during the school year due to Covid-19 and/or is required to self-isolate due to contact with an infected individual. We are outfitting our classrooms for remote access for individuals who are unable to attend class in person.

We are working hard to craft the highest quality learning experience for our students, and strong social/emotional support is essential as it is intrinsically linked to strong learning outcomes. The current Covid-19 pandemic has placed increased stress on our students, and we will place additional focus on emotional support and social connections for all our students.

Finally, we will endeavor to deliver as complete an academic offering with minimal changes to upper and middle school course offerings and a commitment to “specials” in the Lower School. This may require some shifting of responsibilities by our faculty and staff, but we remain committed to whole-child education.

Daily Schedules

We have adopted daily schedules across all three divisions that will allow for a smooth transition between in-person and remote learning, should the need arise.

US/MS Schedules ([click here](#) for US/MS Schedule)

The upper and middle school schedules have been modified to minimize transitions throughout the school day, allow for course rotation, offer a full slate of academic and co-curricular programming, support student-teacher engagement with 75-minute blocks of in-person or synchronous time, and promote social and emotional learning.

LS Schedules ([click here](#) for primary, pre-primary, and early childhood schedules)

The Lower School’s focus is the education and well-being of the whole child. The on-campus schedule recognizes the need for students to maintain social distancing and allows for closed cohorts of students within their homeroom group, while offering a full range of academic and co-curricular programming. The remote learning schedule establishes a consistent approach across Lower School, with defined periods of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided to all students on campus. We are working with our dining service provider, Sage, to determine the most appropriate delivery for our lunch service. It is likely that some students will receive a freshly prepared, boxed lunch, which will be eaten in classrooms or designated outdoor locations. Other students will be

served their food and will eat in the dining terrace, with seating set to observe social distancing guidelines. There will be no self-serve options available.

Formats will be trialed during July (while our summer camp students are on campus) before final plans are developed for the start of the academic year.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

To facilitate social distancing, accommodate daily health screenings, and allow adequate time for cleaning, we will use staggered drop-off and pick-up times for each division, at specified locations on campus.

All buildings will be closed at 4 p.m. Only students enrolled in the After-School Program (Early Childhood through 6th grade) or our new Study Hall program (7th through 12th grade) will be permitted to remain on campus. Families interested in our extended day programs may enroll by visiting [here](#) and are encouraged to do so by July 15. Upper school students participating in interscholastic sports or the upper school performing arts productions will be allowed to remain on campus under the supervision of their coaches/directors. All other students will be required to leave at 4 p.m.

Please review [Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures](#) for full details.

Transportation

We are in continued discussions with our bus service providers. The extent of service for the coming school year is currently unclear, with districts cutting back on their bus services in light of social distancing guidelines and as a means of saving costs. If services are cut, parents will be required to transport their students to school.

You may wish to consider a carpool arrangement with another family. Instructions for searching our parent directory by zip code are available [here](#) to assist you in identifying other Country Day families living in your area.

Visitor Policy

Under normal circumstances, Country Day welcomes parents and visitors to campus since we value the many ways our community supports our students' growth and development. However, as an additional step to help contain the spread of disease, we are limiting visitors in the current environment. Among other restrictions, parents will not be allowed to accompany their students into the buildings. Full details are available in our [Campus Visitor Policy](#).

Technology

Country Day was well positioned to pivot to online learning this past spring, in large part due to middle and upper school students' access to and expertise with Surface devices. For the upcoming school year, we will be prepared to deploy Microsoft Surface tablets to every Kindergarten through 4th grade student in the event we need to support periods of remote learning. Our philosophy of balancing use of devices and limiting screen time in the Lower School remains, yet we recognize a unified deployment of devices improves teacher-student communication, aids efficacy of online instruction, and provides relief for family support of devices at home.

Athletics

OHSAA continues to consider the extent to which upper school, middle school, and youth athletics will be played in the fall. Upper school sports are underway, and our athletics department is in frequent communication with athletes and their families about the phased, return-to-play system OHSAA has implemented. Middle school and youth sports are currently scheduled for a fully operational program; however, these programs are also subject to OHSAA guidance.

Travel Quarantines

Since travel can increase the risk of exposure to Covid-19, we ask families to adhere to guidance provided by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, and Hamilton County Public Health regarding international and domestic

travel. Presently, students and staff who travel internationally will be required to quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus. Domestic travel does not require quarantining, but as the situation evolves, it may be necessary to impose quarantines based on changing state travel advisories. [Click here](#) for more details.

Parents will most likely have questions as the Covid-19 situation unfolds over the summer, and as additional guidance becomes available, we may adjust our plans for re-opening in August. As such, we will provide a further update no later than August 1, 2020. Also, we will host divisional Zoom meetings on July 29 and 31 regarding the opening of the school year. Details to follow. In the meantime, please continue to direct questions to your division head or email covid19safety@countryday.net.

Mark Morawski, our new head of lower school, has been working closely with the administrative team over the last two months, and we have benefited greatly from his perspective and guidance. He officially commences work at Country Day on July 1, 2020, and we look forward to providing opportunities for our lower school community to get to know him in preparation for the start of the academic year. While Mark would be delighted to receive your emails welcoming him to our school, please direct questions relating to our re-opening in August to covid19safety@countryday.net. We will direct your questions to Mark, or a member of his faculty team more familiar with Country Day's day-to-day operations, as appropriate.

Thank you for your continued support of our work. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your students back to campus in August. In the meantime, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,



Anthony T. T. Jaccaci
Head of School