



LCCS Middle School Family,

Well, welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. It is definitely going to look a little different, but I fully believe it is going to be a year that we look back on and see the hand of God guiding us through a challenging time. While we do not know exactly what January, or November, or even tomorrow is going to look like, He does. And we know that he holds us tightly in his hands and guides our steps.

Let me start off with why exactly this letter is coming from me. Due to the different needs of the Middle and High School program, Dr. Williams feels that he and I can be most effective in our leadership by splitting up those departments. So while Dr. Williams is still the Middle and High School Principal, leading the Middle School program as a whole is now my responsibility. I am extremely excited for this opportunity to work with our outstanding Middle School staff and your absolutely amazing middle school students more closely.

Our plan for opening school and keeping it open is laid out clearly below. Please know that every decision we made has just that as the goal behind it. We tried very hard to strike the right balance between the safety of our staff and students and still allowing this special group of students to experience all that our middle school program has to offer. I also want to add that we are not necessarily committed to these protocols for the entire school year. We will keep a close eye on local trends in virus spread and the trends in our school community and we will adjust as necessary.

That being said, we know that each of you have unique circumstances and different levels of comfort with being around others in a school setting at this time. Later this week, an official form will come where we are asking you to declare if you will be attending LCCS in person or virtually. We are prepared to support all of you to the best of our ability in whatever choice is best for your family. You are not committed to your choice for an entire year or semester or even quarter. If and when you decide to change the choice you have made, please reach out to me and let me know and we can make that happen. Obviously changing on a weekly basis presents a challenge, but we want to offer you the flexibility to adjust to your family's needs as they arise.

I wholeheartedly believe that this year is going to be an amazing journey of God's protection and faithfulness. I can not wait to walk that journey with each and every one of you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. I am here for you. As always, thank you for your support of LCCS and for entrusting your precious children to us, especially in this unprecedented time.

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"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

Important Middle School Calendar Events

- Thursday, August 6th
 - 8:00 AM - 6th Grade Parent Virtual Coffee
- Tuesday, August 18th
 - 6:00 PM – New Parent Orientation by Zoom (Link and information will be forthcoming.)
 - 7:30 PM – Meet the Teacher by Zoom (Links and more information will be forthcoming. Parents will follow a min-version of their student's schedule.)
- Wednesday, August 19th
 - 4:30 PM – New Student Orientation in the Byers Center lobby. COVID-19 protocols will be in effect.
- Thursday, August 20th
 - Normal A day schedule with some class time dedicated to typical "First Day" activities
- Friday, August 21st
 - Normal B day schedule with some class time dedicated to typical "First Day" activities

Covid-19 Protocols for Middle School

When you arrive on campus

- Please arrive on campus with face covering on.
- Face coverings do **not** include masks with exhalation valves.
- Each student will be checked in with a temperature check and symptom check.
- Any student who does not pass the temperature check or symptom check will be sent to the health clerk's waiting area where parents will be notified that the student will need to stay home.

Spacing and distancing during the school day

- For the vast majority of classes, middle school students will be cohorted with the same peer group. In cohorted classes, class will be conducted essentially as usual with social distancing being practiced when possible.
- While we will do our best to implement social distancing, we will not promote social isolation.
- Face coverings are required at all times in common areas. (Hallways, Bathrooms, Cafeteria until seated 6 feet apart)
- Face covering style and decoration should be non-distracting and reflective of the aspects of Eagle DNA..
- Face coverings may be removed outside when socially distanced from others at least 6 feet.
- Non-cohorted electives such as Choir and Band may require additional layers of protocol. Choir students may be required to wear masks while singing and Band students may be required to initiate extra sanitation and distancing while playing.
- Your student may opt to wear a mask at all times.

How the Classroom will be handled

- Teachers will be required to wear masks at all times in their classroom unless they are alone.
- Teachers are the ultimate authority in the classroom in regards to all policies and procedures, including those related to Covid-19.

Transitions between classes

- All building occupants should do their best to adhere to social distancing of six feet whether inside or outside the building.
- Markers will be placed on the hallway floors to help guide distancing.
- Face coverings may only be removed when outside and socially distanced at least 6 feet from others.
- Middle School students may transition to and from the Byers Center by walking through the elementary building, but masks must be on and social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained.

Lunch and snack time protocols

- Students may remove masks during snack and lunch only when seated and socially distanced at least 6 feet from others.
- Students may eat snack and lunch in the cafeteria or courtyard when weather permits.
- Snack items will be sold out of the cafeteria and items may be limited from last year. Some hot snack will still be available.

Visitor Protocols:

- No one outside of students or personnel will be allowed in the building at any time, including parents and family members.

Elective Classes, Specials and Extracurricular Activities

- Protocols for performance-driven electives and extracurricular activities will come from the Athletic and Fine Arts Directors.
- Protocols for things such as Pep Rallies and off-season sports will be addressed by the Athletics Director.
- Non-cohorted electives may limit some activities and may require additional layers of protocol, including sanitation and wearing masks more frequently.

Assemblies and large gatherings

- Large gatherings will be infrequent.
- Chapels may be held outdoors when weather permits.
- Masks may be removed when outside and distanced at least 6 feet.
- Masks may be removed in large gatherings indoors only when seated, not singing, and distanced at least 6 feet.