

Abington Friends School

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# School Reopening *plan*

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2020-2021

◆ A Community of Spirit and Collective Purpose ◆

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## Vision

We enter the 2020–2021 school year with a great deal of hope and aspiration for all of the ways in which we can create a vibrant and vital Friends school community in this most unusual time. When conditions allow, we will be able to welcome all students to campus with new schedules, redesigned use of our campus and facilities, small class sizes and cohorts and stringent adherence to best practices of health and safety. If campus is directed to close, we will transition to the next generation of AFS Everywhere on a sturdy foundation of new learning management systems and new approaches to online learning to ensure full continuity of the academic program. For students who are unable to come to campus, including any international students, we will support their inclusion in classes through hybrid learning.

Our great hope is that we are able to begin the school year on campus for the opportunity to establish relationships, routines and a strong sense of community as a foundation for the rest of the school year. We will be guided by directives from the State. When schools can be open, our campus will be open and if school campuses are closed by the State, we will transition to remote learning with AFS Everywhere 2.0.

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**Our community, rich in spirit, strengthened by our diversity and grounded in a deep sense of collective purpose, has a tremendous opportunity to rise with each other to allow great things to happen in the 2020–2021 school year.**

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In facing obstacles and challenges together, we grow in our resilience and creative capacity. We know that we are founded on the belief of that of God in each person, an inner light that provides strength, perspective and hopefulness available to us in all circumstances. We have so much to look forward to in the 2020–2021 school year.

With this publication we are pleased to share an overview of our plans for the coming year, with key concepts and strategies.

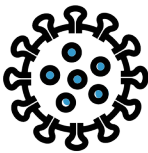
# Health & Safety

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## Research and Planning

The following plan for reimagining school in the COVID era comes from extensive research and collaboration over the past several months among administrators, faculty and staff. Our planning has been grounded in research, directives and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Montgomery County Department of Health, National Association of Independent Schools and other professional associations as well as AFS parents in public health and infectious disease fields. We are grateful for the hard work and commitment shown by so many in preparing for the 2020-2021 school year.

The opportunity to provide for school and community on campus this year rests on a community-wide commitment, on and off campus, to healthy practices and our ability to fully implement all recommendations from the CDC, CHOP and the PA Department of Education. The planned strategies, practices and protocols below represent the professional consensus of the most current research; our approaches to health and safety will be continually updated as we learn more. Our community's commitment to these practices not only safeguards the AFS community but plays an important role in the safety, health and well-being of our region overall. We cannot eliminate risk of the virus, but we can make our community significantly safer by practicing these key practices and protocols:



All faculty and staff, children and families will receive training about the virus, its transmission and key concepts for health, safety and mitigation of risk. A community commitment to mutual well-being and best practices will be shared with all.



All children, faculty and staff will complete a daily inventory monitoring for symptoms and virus exposures through a mobile application called Ruvna. We will be emphasizing and enforcing the importance of staying home when sick. If an adult or child shows one of three key symptoms or two of six more varied symptoms (see chart to follow) of the virus when on campus, we have a protocol for isolating individuals in spaces set up in the Black Box theater, supervised by the School Nurse. The person will go home from there and will need to consult with a medical professional about when and under what conditions a return to school is warranted.

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# COVID-19 School Exclusion Requirements

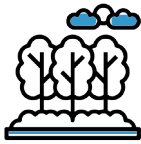
Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements		
<b>COVID-19 Symptoms</b> <u>Two</u> of the following symptoms: chills, fatigue, myalgia, headache, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea OR <u>One</u> of the following symptoms: fever (100.4 or higher), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or new loss of taste or smell	<b>Individual should be tested for COVID-19.</b> If test result is negative, return to school 3 days after symptoms are no longer present. If test result is positive or individual is unable/refuses to get tested, may return to school after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hours with no fever <b>and</b></li> <li>• Improvement in symptoms <b>and</b></li> <li>• 10 days since symptoms first appeared</li> </ul>	
<b>Positive COVID-19 PCR Test</b>	<b>WITH SYMPTOMS</b> May return to school after <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hours with no fever and</li> <li>• Improvement in symptoms and</li> <li>• 10 days since symptoms first appeared</li> </ul>	<b>WITHOUT SYMPTOMS</b> May return to school after <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 days after PCR test was collected</li> </ul> <small>*If symptoms develop during the 10 days, follow return to school guidance for positive PCR with symptoms</small>
<b>Close Contact to PCR Test</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 6ft for 15 minutes or more</li> <li>• Household contact</li> </ul>	<b>WITH SYMPTOMS</b> Individual should be tested for COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If test result is negative, return to school 14 days after last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and symptoms have resolved</li> <li>• If test result is positive, follow return to school guidance for positive PCR with symptoms</li> </ul>	<b>WITHOUT SYMPTOMS</b> Excluded 14 days after last date of exposure to the person with COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household contacts are in quarantine until 14 days after household positive is released from isolation</li> </ul> <small>*If symptoms develop during the 14 days <u>after</u> household positive is released from isolation.</small>
<b>**Travel to States with High COVID-19 Rates</b> Critical workers are encouraged to wear both a face shield and mask and social distance, if unable to quarantine	<b>WITH SYMPTOMS</b> If symptoms develop during the recommended 14 day quarantine upon return to PA, follow return to school guidance for COVID-19 symptoms	<b>WITHOUT SYMPTOMS</b> Self-quarantine for 14 days from when they return to PA
2020-PAHAN-517-0718-UPD Update: Interim Guidance for Discontinuing non- Healthcare Isolation with person with COVID-19 ** PADOH COVID-19 information for Travelers		Designated Contact Information for Schools Phone: 610-278-6211 Email: MCSchoolCOVID19@montcopa.org



Cloth face coverings will be mandatory indoors for all adults and children. Please refer to the Pennsylvania state policy on face coverings for additional details [here](#). They may be taken off outdoors with distancing. Breaks from face coverings will be built into the day. Face shields may be used by those who would like to augment the protection of cloth face coverings.



We have inventoried and examined all classroom and instructional spaces and all will be configured to ensure six feet of spacing between desks. Class and cohort sizes are limited to 12 or fewer in most classroom spaces, created by additional staffing, reconfigured use of space and new schedules in each division. Larger teaching spaces, such as the Faulkner Reading Room will be able to accommodate some full class sizes in the Upper School with appropriate distance.



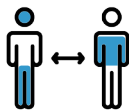
We encourage faculty and staff to make use of our extensive outdoor spaces during temperate weather for the benefit of greater ventilation and, with appropriate distancing, relief from face-coverings. We are adding tented spaces and portable seating accessible for each division of the school for planned and impromptu outdoor activities.

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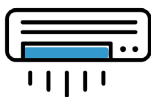
For daily practices, all adults and children will use hand sanitizer or wash hands when entering school or a new space and before and after lunch and bathroom use. We will have personnel doing periodic cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day and this will also be the practice of all employees in offices and classrooms. Every space will have appropriate cleaning supplies. All facilities will undergo electrostatic cleaning every weekend and bathrooms will be electrostatically cleaned every day.

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All bathrooms, particularly multiple user bathrooms, have been configured to limit density of use, and staggered bio breaks during class time will limit times of high demands at other breaks.

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We have inventoried offices and learning spaces for ventilation, many of which have air handlers that provide fresh air exchange, particularly in newer parts of the campus. All spaces in use have windows and fresh-air capable exchange through window air conditioning. Central air conditioning is being added to the Upper School Science Wing this summer.

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The cafeteria will be closed as a lunchroom until conditions change. CulinArt is developing an app-based meal ordering system that will allow families to order and pay for meals on a weekly basis. Meals will be selected from a limited menu and be delivered to students and faculty and staff to be eaten in classrooms or outdoors. Families are encouraged to consider packing lunches where feasible. The Farmhouse will be closed as well.

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The campus will be restricted to students, faculty and staff and only essential visitors such as delivery persons and contracted service people. Parents will not be routinely allowed into buildings. All visitors will be screened for symptoms and masked before proceeding into the building.

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When we learn of a case of COVID-19 in our community, either by self-reporting or from the county as mandated, we will be directed by the Montgomery County Department of Health in contact tracing and directives for any needed closure either for cleaning and disinfecting or quarantine for affected parts of the school.

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# Design for Healthy Learning *and* Growth for All Ages

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To fully implement all health and safety protocols and create vibrant spaces for teaching and learning, each division of the School has redesigned curriculum, sectioning, staffing and a daily schedule to ensure the best experience possible for students under all conditions.

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## Lower School

- Cohorts of 12 or fewer students with a single classroom teacher and assistant teacher
- Resource subjects of art, science and music fully integrated into the classroom curriculum
- Extensive use of outdoor spaces for greater ventilation and freedom for children and teachers
- Most classrooms have doors directly to the outdoors
- Adoption of *Google Classroom* and *Seesaw* learning management systems as hub for on campus and remote learning
- To serve as a foundation for both on campus and remote learning, all students from EC to Grade 4 will receive new tablet-capable Chromebooks





## Middle School

- A combination of 90-minute multidisciplinary classes and shorter grade-level subject classes for maximum creativity and flexibility for teacher collaboration
- Extensive use of the outdoors for greater ventilation and freedom for teachers and students
- Continuation and expansion of Google Classroom as the primary learning management system for on campus and remote learning
- All students from Grades 5 to 8 will receive new tablet-capable Chromebooks
- Any multi-grade-level clubs and activities will be conducted virtually
- New designs for performing arts and athletics to utilize virtual learning tools (see sections below on performing arts and athletics for more detail)

## Upper School

- A block schedule with 90-minute classes
- Most classes taught in simultaneous half groups with a classroom teacher and proctor in adjacent classrooms for maximum flexibility
- Traditional year-long classes taught in a semester format, allowing teachers and students to focus on fewer subjects at a time
- Wednesdays will be virtual for all students and allow for assemblies, Meeting for Worship, advisory and one-on-one, small group work with teachers
- Clubs and Conscious Communities (Equity, Justice and Engagement programming) during lunch periods
- Designed with international students in mind, the daily schedule allows for participation in morning block classes and added evening block
- Adoption of Canvas as the learning management system for on campus and remote learning



## Remote Learning *for* Off-Campus Students

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Some students, including many of our international students, will elect to remain off campus for part or all of the coming school year for a variety of reasons. We are planning a hybrid approach to our support of remote learners, a combination of participation in classes through technology, additional time with teachers and support staff outside of class and full remote inclusion in clubs, activities, advisory and Meeting for Worship.

The experience of AFS Everywhere this past spring, followed by extensive research and professional development this summer, has expanded our repertoire for distance learning and will support an ambitious academic program this coming year. The strategies and supports will vary by age group, subject matter and number of students involved in remote learning. All students on and off-campus will be connected through a learning management system, Zoom, and Google Apps for continued engagement and connection.

This suite of technology resources and platforms, our new schedules and our expanded approaches to curricular design will support our entire school community in a next generation of AFS Everywhere should campus be closed for any period of time. A follow-up parent survey will be sent that will allow families to tell us if you plan to have your child learn remotely for part or all of the coming year or would like to explore that option.

## Entering a New School Year *for* Students

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Our students are returning to our school community after months of isolation, many challenges to social and emotional health and the stresses of racism and violence so prominent in our culture in recent months. Faculty are being trained in trauma-informed, healing-centered pedagogy to become grounded in healthful teaching practices, relationship building and awareness of the challenges students are navigating as they re-enter school.

The first weeks of school will provide opportunities for students to connect with each other, reflect on their experiences and form meaningful relationships with their new teachers. Our Quaker practices of mindfulness and centering will be lifted up as essential tools in our community.

All students will be trained in the basics of the virus and the daily health and safety practices that will help keep them, their friends, families and loved ones safe. We will invite students into the process of creating a robust culture of commitment to each other in keeping the community as safe as possible.

Students will also be oriented to our new technology tools and the learning management systems in their division to support them in becoming more resourceful and independent learners for the transitions we may be navigating this year. Training in studentship and in how to do high quality work with new tools will be a focus of the opening weeks of school.

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Finally, we know that children are craving the opportunity to connect, to play and to collaborate with each other. Even with the constraints brought by health and safety measures, we aspire for school to be a playful, joyful place for children of all ages. We will be creative and innovate new ways for this to happen in the new school year.

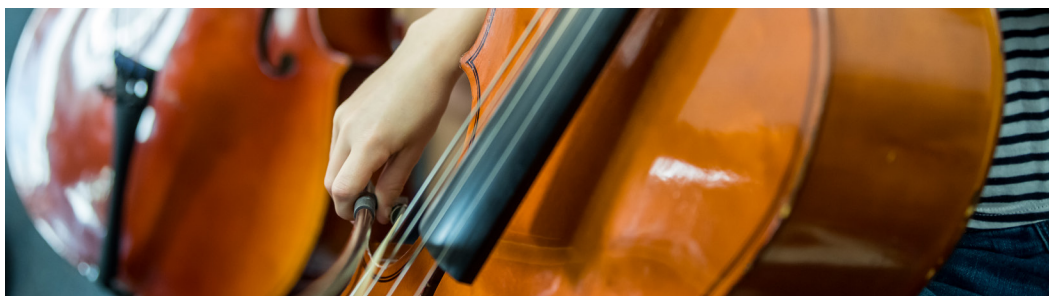
## Physical Education *and* Athletics



We recognize now more than ever the value of physical movement, teamwork and promoting overall health in mind and body for students. During the day, students will have active time in P.E., mostly outdoors, in safely distanced activities as well as opportunities for safe play during recess and breaks.

The Friends Schools League is developing athletics options in the League, both individual and team, intramural and interscholastic. The League Athletic Directors, who are led this year by our own Jeff Bond, will communicate plans for fall sports and activities for Middle and Upper School students by August 1. There are opportunities for fall athletes to begin specially designed workouts in August, with a schedule and sign-up to follow shortly.

## Performing Arts



Instrumental and choral music as well as theater are presented with distinct challenges in the COVID era. Our arts faculty are designing alternative experiences focusing on smaller ensembles, use of the outdoors, creative staging and choice of repertoire and materials best suited to new formats and reflective of important themes in our larger culture right now such as equity and justice. We are hopeful that larger ensemble activities may be available in the second semester.

## Equity, Justice *and* Engagement Initiatives

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As shared in a [June letter from Rich Nourie](#), work is beginning this summer and into the school year to redesign leadership groups within the school to comprise racial diversity in all decision-making groups, formation of a faculty and administrative committee for a process of curriculum review in the English, history and arts curricula, professional development of faculty, and protection of students most vulnerable to harm from racism and bias incidents. Our theme is Belonging. Planning for this work has begun in all four areas and will be reported on in a September letter from the Head of School.

We are mindful too of disparities and inequities exposed by or exacerbated by the pandemic and are trying to build consciousness of equity issues as we think about access to campus and opportunities and other stressors that some students carry more than others at this time.

We have reframed the Office of Equity and Inclusion as the Office of Equity, Justice and Engagement, with Mikael Yisrael as Director. Mikael is leading efforts to redesign the 10th Grade Seminar and collaborate on the efforts to ensure clear channels for addressing bias incidents in the school community.

## Support of Faculty *and* Staff & Professional Development

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Mindful of the shifts in our program this year and new tools for teaching and learning, faculty and staff will be gathering for professional learning, collaboration and curriculum design from August 10 to August 26, planning for the opening of school together. Division Directors are also planning thoughtfully for support of faculty and staff this year, with a focus on wellness, mindfulness, renewal and resilience, knowing the special challenges that this year presents to faculty and staff.

## Flexible Calendaring

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Given the uncertainties of the school year ahead, we are approaching the 2020-2021 school calendar with flexibility. If the campus is closed for extended periods, we will have the option, with adequate advance notice, to be open during some previously scheduled holidays, portions of breaks or extend the calendar later into June. We want to ensure time on campus, in community, when possible.



# Transportation

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AFS students use many modes of transportation including family drop-off, public transportation, AFS bus service and school district busing. Chris Santaniello, our transportation manager, is actively collaborating with the school districts and will be sharing more information when we have concrete plans from the districts. The Philadelphia School District has let us know that AFS students in grades 1 through 8 traveling on district buses will arrive at 9:30 a.m. this year and we will accommodate those students who have a late arrival. We encourage families to consider alternatives including drop off and pick up by the family if that is an option.

# Tuition

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As [communicated in May](#), in recognition of the shared sacrifices needed by all in this time of pandemic, there are tuition credits for families for the 2020-2021 school year: For families with a child in grades 1 through 12, a 10% reduction in the family's tuition contribution for that child for the 2020-2021 school year. For families with a child in either Early Childhood or Kindergarten, a 25% reduction in the family's tuition contribution for that child for the 2020-2021 school year, in recognition of the distinct challenges for families of young children.

The reduction will appear as a credit on SMART Tuition bills after the start of the new school year. A family may choose to apply the credit to this year's tuition or to donate the credit to the Fund for AFS in support of emergency COVID support of families.