

2020-2021 Smithtown Christian School Educational Plan
for Submission to DOH and NYSED in regards to Covid-19 version 1.2



The Smithtown Christian School Covid-19 Task force is composed of the SCS administration, the Facilities Manager, and the School Nurse.

This Reopening Plan was developed by the Smithtown Christian School Task force with input from the SCS school board, survey data from parents and students, guidance from our national accreditor ACSI (which acted as a think-tank including over 23,400 member non-public schools continuously sharing ideas and resources), regional sister schools, and this plan was developed in alignment with mandatory rules from DOH and NYSED. This plan will cover the “Reopening for in-person instruction,” “Monitoring of health conditions,” “Containment to prevent spreading of the disease,” and “Closure if infection cannot be contained” aspects of school during a pandemic. This plan is not exhaustive, but designed to meet required needs for reporting reopening plans to state entities. This plan may change as state requirements change or improvements are made through collaboration and refinement.

Being a small school of closely connected families, we are able to communicate easily with our parents via email, text, and phone call. We have established a webpage dedicated to Covid-19 related communication. Trainings will be done for all Parents, students, faculty and staff to prepare them for school this fall.

(1) Reopening of school facilities for in-person instruction

Schedule - *updates as of 4.28.21 italicized*

Due to small class sizes and large classrooms, Smithtown Christian School will be able to accommodate 5 days of in-person instruction for all students and 5 work days for all employees. *All K-12th grade students and teachers will be socially distanced in their classrooms at 6ft where possible; in few necessary cases, students will be distanced at 3ft. Teachers and students will wear masks all day except while eating and drinking; and socially distanced outdoors. When adults are engaged in administrative functions without students present, these adults may remove their masks when socially*

distanced. Allowances will be made in the case where masks impede an individual's physical or mental health, and a memo from a health care provider or LMHC is required to remove a mask requirement for an individual. Backup disposable masks will be maintained for individuals who forget their mask or whose mask malfunctions. Individuals are encouraged to bring a mask that follows state guidelines that is comfortable and preferred by them.

Classes and cohorts will be organized and taught using the latest educational technology to allow considerable at-home learning for when students must quarantine due to exposure to Covid-19.

Due to our small class sizes and large classrooms, we do not need a hybrid plan, but are prepared if it becomes necessary. For the foreseeable future, we will only operate in-person and remotely.

Attendance Procedures

As per State Guidance, attendance will be counted for in-person instruction via normal methods. Students who are at home or engaged in online learning will be counted present for State requirements if they log into Google Classroom and perform a documentable activity for that class. Teachers may require activity logs for students engaged in long-term projects or multi-day project planning with no identifiable deliverable available.

Buses

Smithtown Christian School maintains no private bus fleet or student transportation. All Bus regulations will be followed by District-provided bussing, and parents will be encouraged to transport their own children to decrease the capacity burden on district bussing. District buses will be needed to transport children in the same capacity as last school year.

All students are required to wear a mask on the school bus and must maintain appropriate social distancing. The only exception to the mask requirement is that students whose physical and mental health would be impaired by wearing a mask are not required to do so but must maintain social distancing of 6 feet from other individuals on the bus. Siblings are encouraged to sit together. SCS encourages all students riding the bus to adhere to CDC and DOH guidance regarding bussing.

Per Non-public state guidance pg. 23: *"If a school district is in session, remotely or otherwise, pupil transportation must be provided to students in religious and*

independent schools. Religious and independent school students eligible for transportation, to the extent required by law, cannot be denied transportation. Parents who may have missed the due date to request out of district transportation due to a reasonable excuse may file a 310 appeal with the Commissioner of Education.”

Entries and Exits of building

Student entrance/Bus

Students will follow social distancing rules upon exiting the bus, various entrances and staging areas will be utilized prior to entering the building to reduce traffic flow.

Parent drop off/Parent pick up:.

Smithtown Christian School administration will establish a designated area for student drop-off and pick-up, limiting contact and entry of parents/legal guardians into the building, to the greatest extent possible.

Any visitor to school grounds will be limited, subject to temperature checks, a verbal COVID checklist, and other safety protocols that are required to be in compliance with the CDC guidelines during all other school operations.

Hallways and Common Areas

The Smithtown Christian School Covid-19 Task force will reconfigure spaces, and restrict the use of classrooms and other places where students, faculty, and staff gather (e.g., lockers, cubbies, entryways, hallways), so that individuals will be socially distanced (e.g., side-to-side and when facing one another), and are not sharing workstations, desks, tables, or other shared surfaces without cleaning and disinfection between use.

The main hallway will be utilized as a one way, and where feasible, measures will be put in place to reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape or signs with arrows in hallways, or spaces throughout the school. Signage and distance markers denoting spaces of six feet will be used in many commonly used areas, especially where people will congregate.

Bathrooms

Smithtown Christian School Administration and facilities staff will ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis throughout the school day.

SCS will use a combination of turning small restrooms into single use, and will employ signage, occupied markers and faculty monitoring to reduce restroom

occupancy to fit social distance rules. Best practices that will be implemented in shared (i.e., communal) bathrooms include, but are not limited to:

- Using physical barriers between toilets.
- Use of touch-free paper towel dispensers in lieu of air dryers.

Classrooms

Prioritizing In-Classroom Instruction for students that need it the most, Smithtown Christian School will provide steps to facilitate face-to-face instruction as much as possible (five days a week). In the event students will be absent for an extended period and have limited access to personal technology devices, a chromebook will be provided with a signed user agreement.

Smithtown Christian School will follow the recommended guidelines for using a cohort model, which means we will keep students in similar groups throughout the day so that cleaning and disinfection may be performed in an efficient manner.

Student's social and emotional needs will be prioritized in the onboarding of students and during the course of the year (see mental health considerations below).

Smithtown Christian School will schedule students by cohorts to the extent practicable to limit potential exposure. "Cohorts," particularly for younger students, are self-contained, pre-assigned groups of students with reasonable group size limits set forth by the school in their plan. SCS will enact measures to prevent intermingling across cohorts, to the greatest extent possible (e.g., separation by appropriate social distancing). Students will be scheduled in the same classroom with the same group of students as much as possible. These reasonable efforts are to ensure that cohorts are fixed for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Indoor/outdoor breaks and increased transitions whenever possible while maintaining cohorts and safety protocols will be implemented to help students maintain emotional health in extended cohorts separation.

Smithtown Christian School will limit the sharing of objects, such as lockers, cubbies, laptops, notebooks, touchscreens, writing utensils and dry erase boards, musical instruments, tools, and toys, as well as the touching of shared surfaces, such as conference tables and desks; or require students, faculty, and staff to perform hand hygiene before and after contact. Students will have individual kits of supplies to limit shared items.

Faculty will be moving between classrooms to teach different sections and will instruct more than one cohort while the appropriate social distancing is maintained.

To maximize in-person instruction, Smithtown Christian School will take the appropriate measures that can be implemented to decrease density and congregation in school facilities and on school grounds, when possible, such as:

- Adjusting class or work hours, where appropriate and possible

- Limiting in-person presence to only those faculty/staff who are necessary to be at the school during normal school hours
- Staggering schedules and allowing more time between classes to reduce congestion in hallways, walkways, and buildings
- Shifting design of class schedules to accommodate social distancing guidelines

Students services (RTI, Resource Room, Speech, etc.) and faculty may use alternate PPE (i.e., face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy). These alternate coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g., hearing impaired) who benefit from being able to see more of the face of the faculty or staff member when socially distanced.

Music Rooms/ Gymnasium/Sanctuary/ Auditorium

Smithtown Christsian School recognizes the unique challenges and opportunities of remote instruction to the arts, career and technical education, physical education, laboratory coursework, and other activity-oriented subjects, understanding it is imperative that schools include in-person instruction in those areas to the greatest extent possible. SCS plans to create materials kits when appropriate for science labs, Art and STEM courses.

SCS will ensure that a distance of six feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in activities which require projecting the voice (e.g., singing), playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (e.g., participating in gym classes) by providing outdoor space and larger settings for the six feet distancing. Students' use of instruments will be monitored and training will be provided for musical instruments usage and management.

Cafeteria and Lunch Time:

Students will utilize their classroom and/or the cafeteria to eat snacks and lunch. The Smithtown Christian Covid-19 task force will ensure social distancing at all times by seating students 6 feet apart while eating in the school cafeteria or classroom. If not feasible according to student's schedules, meals may be served in alternate areas (e.g., outdoors, youth room) or in staggered meal periods to ensure social distancing and proper cleaning and disinfection of surfaces between students.

Students will use hand sanitizer or wash their hands prior to eating and after eating in order to ensure appropriate hygiene.

Food will not be served in the cafeteria. Students must bring their lunch from home, and the sharing of food is prohibited in order to protect students with food allergies. Classrooms with food allergic students will receive training for keeping these students safe. Limited supplies of basic meals will be kept on hand for students who

forget their lunch. Faculty and staff will supervise the space reserved for students to observe social distancing while eating meals. Faculty and staff will also review periodically the protocols to encourage and ensure the required hygiene behaviors.

SCS will conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities and more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk areas used by many individuals and for frequently touched surfaces, including desks and cafeteria tables which will be cleaned and disinfected between each individual's use.

- The vending machine will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Teachers will socially distance while eating lunch, and sanitize any shared service prior or following use as applicable.
- No food will be allowed to be delivered to the school. Parents may bring lunches forgotten by students to security marked with student name and grade to be delivered. No students may bring food for their classmates including birthday treats.
- No visitors may visit during meal times.

Playground and Outdoor areas

Students will be permitted to use outdoor playgrounds and outdoor areas. In alignment with the CDC and NY State recommendations: Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks, will have normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection. Disinfectant spray will not be sprayed on outdoor playgrounds as it is an inefficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to users. High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings will be cleaned routinely. Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended. Students will need to maintain social distancing on the playground.

Admin Offices and Small spaces

SCS Administration will increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g., opening windows and doors) while maintaining health and safety protocols.

SCS Administration will take additional measures to prevent congregation in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, by limiting elevator usage to those who need it for medical reasons or transporting heavy or oversized objects.

SCS Administration will restrict access to non-essential amenities and communal areas that do not allow for adequate social distancing protocols to be followed. If open, hand sanitizer and/or disinfecting wipes will be available near such amenities or areas (e.g., vending machines, communal coffee stations).

SCS Administration will not provide cleaning and professional disinfecting supplies to students, particularly younger students, nor should students be present when professional grade disinfectants are in use.

SCS Administration will provide for adequate social distancing in small areas, such as restrooms and break rooms. Signage and furniture rearrangement will be employed to restrict occupancy when social distancing cannot be maintained in such areas.

SCS Administration will stagger schedules for faculty and staff, when possible, to reduce density and promote social distancing in enclosed areas (e.g., coffee breaks, meals, and shift starts/stops).

Hygiene

SCS will adhere to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and DOH, including “[Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#),” and the “[STOP THE SPREAD](#)” poster, as applicable. SCS will maintain logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection. SCS will train all students, faculty, and staff on proper hand and respiratory hygiene, and will send information to parents and/or legal guardians on ways to reinforce this at home.

- SCS will provide and maintain hand hygiene stations around the school, as follows:
 - For handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
 - For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.

Other notes on Hand Sanitizer:

- Student use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers should always be supervised by adults to minimize accidental ingestion and promote safe usage; supervision is required for elementary school students. Parents/guardians can inform the school that they do not want their child to use alcohol-based hand sanitizers by sending a written notice to the school. Schools must provide accommodations for students who cannot use hand sanitizer, to allow for their use of handwashing stations.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout common areas, and touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers are available in many locations.
- Hand sanitizers can be flammable and may not be suitable for certain areas in school facilities and on school grounds. In these places, hand-washing will be made available.

- Receptacles will be placed around the school for disposal of soiled items, including paper towels and PPE.

Cleaning and Disinfection

SCS has acquired advanced cleaning and disinfection equipment including electro-static sprayers and UV lights. These devices will allow for efficient and safe disinfection of necessary surfaces. All recommended precautions will be followed prior to use. Cleaning and disinfection are the primary responsibility of the school's custodial staff. However, SCS will provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies to faculty and staff for shared and frequently touched surfaces

Cohorting students and social distancing will be utilized to reduce the need for cleaning and disinfection. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly, and the cleaning and disinfection of common areas will be rigorous using the latest technology and occur frequently.

Mental Health of Students, Staff, and Faculty

Communities and schools are facing unprecedented challenges as they respond to the compounded difficulties of a global pandemic, and economic recession, and civic unrest. This has caused some of our students, staff and their families to feel disconnection from the communities that gave them comfort and stability prior to the pandemic. Smithtown Christian School will continue to provide an intentional and meaningful educational transition that does not negatively impact academics but continues to create the mental, social, and emotional space and address said needs for academic learning to occur in a safe and healthy format.

Smithtown Christian School has a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) team in place for several years already whose purpose is to seek to triangulate information on students who are struggling in multiple areas including emotional, behavior, academics, social life, health and develop comprehensive strategies to support these students and their success at SCS. All teachers and faculty have access to referral forms if they identify the students who may be in need. As SCS has done for many years already, this team will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Training for identifying students in need in order to deepen the understanding of mental health, well-being, trauma-responsive and restorative practices will be offered through professional learning opportunities. Additionally, work hours have been increased for the school social worker to accommodate a potential uptick in students struggling to adjust to the pandemic.

Students will continue to be evaluated through regular check-ins while simultaneously be afforded information on how to personally develop coping and resilience skills. These will be done through both digital and in-person programs.

Emergency Drills and Building codes

Fire drills, evacuation, and lockdown drills will be completed pursuant to state law and will be adjusted to allow for appropriate social distancing and PPE rules. Stair and corridor doors that have closures with automatic hold open functions, that are automatically released by the fire system will remain unchanged. Any changes or additions to the facilities will comply with all state fire and building codes.

Before Care and After Care

Before Care and After care will be provided to K-6 students for a fee. Students will be kept socially distanced during Before Care and After care, and all other mandatory health guidelines and precautions will be maintained through the before-care and after-care time.

(2) Monitoring of health conditions to ensure detection of infection

At home Screening

Parents will be informed of home-screening procedures (including temp checks, symptom screening, and other limiting criteria including quarantine, travel to impacted areas, etc). Parents will be asked to screen at home to prevent their need to pick up their child at the start of the day.

The following consists of the plans to screen at school:

Temperature Checks

Temperature checks will be completed on a daily basis for all students, faculty, and staff. Additionally, all visitors, contractors, and vendors will have their temperature taken. SCS will limit the number of visitors (upon request only) and continue to require social distancing and proper PPE for all. Any person who exhibits a temperature over 100 degrees will not be allowed entry into the building.

Covid-symptom screening

Faculty, Staff, and visitors will assert daily by signature that they do not have posted Covid symptoms prior to engaging with students. Faculty and Staff that have Covid symptoms will not be permitted access to the building.

Faculty and staff will use the Covid symptom checklist to screen their students. Students who are found to have covid symptoms during the day by trained faculty and staff will be removed from class and sent to the nurse's office for official determination. Also, students will be periodically screened for self-report of covid symptoms using an online questionnaire.

The school's health office will be responsible for any student who exhibits symptoms of Covid-19. If it is determined that they must go home due to state guidelines, there will be a designated place for any student who exhibits these symptoms to wait until they are able to be picked up from school. Persons who exhibit Covid symptoms must remain in isolation until they have recovered or receive a negative Covid test before returning to in-person instruction.

Persons who receive a positive Covid test must remain in isolation and have recovered prior to return to in-person learning. Discharge from isolation and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Exposed Individuals: Individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus will be required to complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning. Discharge from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

(3) Containment to prevent spreading of the disease if infection is detected

Communication Protocols

Communication will take place with all relevant parties as determined by each case or situation. This includes parents/legal guardians, faculty, staff, students and the local community.

SCS Administration designates the Superintendent as the coordinator and main point of contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and is responsible for subsequent communications. The coordinator is responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff and parents or legal guardians of students regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and plans implemented by the school. The coordinator will work closely with local health departments and other schools to monitor public health conditions and make timely communications.

SCS Administration will manage a confidential Covid-19 reporting hotline for individuals who are alerted that they have come into close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19, and have been alerted to such exposure via tracing, tracking or other mechanism. Faculty, Staff, and students must communicate to the coordinator if they are mandated to quarantine or isolate pursuant to the health department, state department, or other medical orders.

SCS will maintain email templates that address the following:

- An individual exhibits symptoms upon screening or during the school day: The school health office will employ their protocol for safely caring for a student, faculty, or staff member. It will include isolating the individual and/or sending him

to a dedicated area to await pick up if immediate exit from the school is not possible. Parents and legal guardians will be directed as to how to safely pick up their student with instructions that the student must be seen by a healthcare provider. Appropriate PPE will be provided to school personnel involved in caring for the individual.

- How/when to notify SCS if you tested positive and next steps
- Notifying parents that an individual in your class tested positive with next steps
- Notification that an individual in the school tested positive - not in your class and next steps
- Large-scale testing is needed: Notification on testing locations and contact numbers to determine the individual's need to be tested. Local resources will be responsible for referring, sourcing, and administering testing (e.g., local health department testing site, physician offices, hospital system), particularly in the event that large-scale testing at the school is needed.

Confidentiality

Names and symptoms will only be provided to Health Department officials, state contact tracers, the school nurse, and SCS administrators involved in tracing the individual's movements throughout the school.

Refusal of Building Entry

If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.4°F, the individual must be denied entry into the facility or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.

An individual who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms, if screened at the school, must be immediately sent home with instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing.

- Students who are being sent home because of a positive screen (e.g., onset of COVID-19 symptoms) must be immediately separated from other students and supervised until their parent/legal guardian or emergency contact can retrieve them from school.
- If necessary, individuals will be provided with information on health care and testing resources, if applicable.
- The state and local health department will be notified about the case if diagnostic test results are positive for COVID-19.

SCS Administration requires individuals to immediately disclose if and when their responses to any of the aforementioned questions changes, such as if they begin to experience symptoms, including during or outside of school hours.

SCS Administration will work in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment.

SCS Administration has designated the General Office Assistant to be responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all screening activities for faculty, staff and students. Security will be responsible for reviewing screening activities with visitors. The Office Assistant is the contact for individuals to inform if they later experience COVID- 19-related symptoms or COVID-19 exposure, as noted on the questionnaire. It will then be directly reported to the Superintendent.

SCS Administration maintains that quarantine of students, faculty or staff may be required after international travel or travel within certain states with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, pursuant to current CDC and DOH guidance, as well as Executive Order 205.

The school health office will take the following measures while caring for a student, faculty, or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. These measures include:

- Identification of a dedicated area to separate students, faculty, or staff with symptoms of COVID- 19 from others until they can go home or to a health care facility, depending on severity of illness.
- Plans to ensure that symptomatic students who are waiting to be picked up remain under the visual supervision of a staff member who is socially distanced.
- PPE requirements for school health office staff caring for sick individuals, must include both standard and transmission-based precautions. In areas with moderate to substantial community transmission, eye protection (i.e., goggles or face shield) should be added. When caring for a suspect or confirmed individual with COVID-19, gloves, a gown, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator should be used, if available (or surgical face mask and face shield, if not available), as well as eye protection.
- Adhering to the required guidelines for cleaning and disinfection.

Re-entry of positive Covid and symptoms

Infected Individuals: Persons who tested positive are required to complete isolation, demonstrate recovery and that they are no longer transmitting COVID-19 in order to return to in-person learning. Discharge from isolation will be conducted in coordination with the local health department in order to determine when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school.

Exposed Individuals: Individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus must complete a 14 day quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning. Discharge from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Health Department

Notification: SCS Administration must notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. In the case of an individual testing positive, SCS Administration is required to cooperate with all state and local health department contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine efforts.

Contact Tracing: SCS will support local health departments in contact tracing efforts using the protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program. State and local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of COVID-19 infected or exposed persons, including isolation or quarantine.

SCS Administration will refer to DOH's "[Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure](#)" regarding protocols and policies for faculty and staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Cleaning and disinfection will take place as set forth through guidance from the DOH and CDC for all exposed areas impacted by the symptomatic, infected or exposed individual. Appropriate notification to occupants of such areas will take place using the email templates while maintaining confidentiality for the infected/exposed individual.

SCS Administration will provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19, with such cleaning and disinfection to include, at a minimum, all heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces.

SCS Administration will follow CDC guidelines on "[Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)," if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19:

- Close off areas used by the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
- SCS Administration does not necessarily need to close operations, if they can close off the affected areas (e.g., classroom, restroom, hallway), but will consult with local health departments first.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.

- Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect, unless waiting 24 hours is not feasible, in which case, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
- Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected, it can be reopened for use.
 - Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
 - Refer to DOH's "[Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure](#)" for information on "close and proximate" contacts.
 - If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.

(4) Closure if infection cannot be contained or if closure is otherwise necessary and/or required by the state or local department of health

Note: "Closure" in the following paragraphs refers to students and/or faculty not being permitted on school grounds due to Covid-19. Education will immediately transition to remote learning for impacted individuals.

Partial closures

When advised by the health department, partial closures (one grade) may occur to assist contact tracers to determine which individuals need to quarantine and which may return to school. Parents will be immediately informed via normal communication routes (email, text, letter, phone, etc).

State and County Closures

If the State of New York or Suffolk County closes all schools in their respective regions, Smithtown Christian School will immediately transition to enhanced remote learning utilizing both hard and e-textbooks, google classroom, live-stream teaching, video instruction, flipped classrooms, and supplemental services to assist our diverse learners. Parents will be immediately informed via normal communication routes (email, text, letter, phone, et al).

Site closure

Here are reasons that Smithtown Christian School could close even if the State and County Authorities have allowed schools to remain open on a state-wide and county level:

The Local health Department advises Smithtown Christian school to close due to excessive on site Covid-19 cases for a set period of time, necessitating transition to full remote learning for the whole school. Parents will be immediately informed via normal communication routes (email, text, letter, phone, etc).

The administration team determines that the burden of excessive absenteeism of faculty and/or students necessitates transitioning to full distance learning for the whole school. Parents will be immediately informed via normal communication routes (email, text, letter, phone, et al).

Remote Learning Plan

In-person education will be utilizing both hard and e-textbooks, google classroom training, live-stream teaching, recorded video instruction, flipped classrooms, and supplemental services to assist our diverse learners. This will support a greater capacity for rigorous and effective remote learning. This redesigned methodology will allow students who are absent to not get behind in their schoolwork, allow absent teachers who are not ill to continue to deliver teaching content to students as well as keep them on pace, and provide for 5th-12th grade students (as capacity allows) who need to learn remotely regardless of school opening status.

In the event that the entire school needs to transition to remote learning, these foundational changes in how we do school will allow for a seamless transition to remote learning for all faculty and students.

Guiding Scripture:

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

END

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