



July 8, 2021

Dear Community Members,

One year ago, we were in a fully remote learning environment and planning in earnest to bring the students and faculty back systematically and safely into the building for in-person instruction after the July break. We did not know what was in store, but we knew that we would need our community to come together to support one another, and to make safe decisions with not only self in mind, but also with the health and safety of the entire community at the forefront. We know we are smarter and stronger together; the pandemic only strengthened that belief.

I could not be prouder of our community's accomplishments over the past year. Examples of selflessness and people actively caring for one another abound. We worked together to mitigate the crisis and although the global pandemic is not over, we are far along in our recovery process. Thank you for your continued support.

Recently, guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has been evolving, and some restrictions have been altered or lifted. In an effort to communicate any procedural changes, we are providing this update on how Crossroads School will operate in the months of July and August, the extended portion of our 2020-21 school year.

Best Regards,
Crossroads School

Updates to Crossroads School - COVID-19 Guidance - July 8, 2021

DESE guidance through the end of the 2020-21 school year including extended year (July - Aug):

The core mitigation strategies that districts and schools have used all year will remain in place through the end of the school year, except for outdoor masking. Districts and schools are required to **continue core mitigation** strategies this school year.

Monitor for symptoms and stay home when sick:

Staff must monitor themselves for symptoms daily. Students, with the assistance of families, must also be monitored daily for symptoms. Staff and students must do their part to protect others and not come to school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling sick.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever of 100 degrees or higher or chills, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting, and diarrhea. The following symptoms when in combination with each other or the previously listed symptoms: fatigue, headache, nasal congestion, or runny nose.

Mask policy for student/faculty interactions:

Mask wearing is a critical measure to contain the spread of COVID-19. We require all students and all staff to wear masks within the school building and on school buses unless students receive a medical or behavior

exemption. Masks must completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps. When outdoors, students are not required to wear masks, even if they cannot maintain distance and regardless of the activity. Fully vaccinated educators do not have to wear masks when outdoors and unvaccinated educators are encouraged to wear masks when outdoors. When in the community vaccinated staff and students may remove their masks if the facilities mask policy allows; however, unvaccinated staff and students must continue to wear a mask indoors regardless of the facility policy.

Maintain strong hand hygiene:

Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal. Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the best practice and required any time hands are visibly soiled. However, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be substituted when handwashing is not available.

Maintain physical distance:

Crossroads school will be following a three feet minimum distance requirement between individuals when indoors. When outdoors and on vans, individuals should distance as feasible.

Visitors:

Visitors are welcome as long as the following precautions are taken. Visits should be scheduled in advance with the appropriate contact. Crossroads Program Secretary will have a screening questionnaire that will produce “yes/no” results for visitors to Crossroads. The questionnaire will determine whether it is safe for the visitor to remain within the building. Visitors will be required to wear masks in the building and may only access areas within the school that are relevant to their visit. As part of the screening questionnaire, the Program Secretary will perform a temperature check. Any failed screenings will result in asking the visitor to reschedule their meeting. Vaccinated visitors and staff members may choose have masks off during meetings as long as 3 feet of social distancing is maintained.