



Oak Grove Schoolwide Initiative for COVID-19 Mitigation

August 2021

School Preparations

Guiding Principles

Please read through this document prayerfully and thoroughly. We are all keenly aware of the fragility of emotions and various convictions in this current climate.

The Board and School Administration of Oak Grove Classical Academy has endeavored to be faithful to its mission and vision by being obedient to and honoring God's revealed will in the Bible regarding submission to governing authorities, loving our neighbor (students, families, staff and greater community), and being diligent and careful in protecting the mission and vision of the school. The leadership has sought to be as thorough, thoughtful, and prayerful as possible in the preparation of this document. Decisions have not been made lightly, but rather in consideration of the diverse needs expressed by our school community, and in consultation with medical experts and authoritative research.

Bear in mind that while we put forth our best effort to make policies that are settled and determined, ***the policies are subject to change***. We will do our very best to communicate these changes as soon as we are able.

Understanding the Times

Regardless of background, people around the world have been wrestling with the age-old question as they contemplate this time in history: "*How should we then live?*" Each word in that question is significant. As a community, inevitably there will be a range of opinions, perspectives, and personal feelings regarding some of the policies and procedures laid out in this document.

As a community of Christians, bear in mind that God has made how we should live abundantly clear in light of our calling to consider others before ourselves, to "*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace*" (Ephesians 4:2-3). Additionally, Jesus' words: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*" (Matthew 22:37-39).

Defining Terms

- "Symptomatic person" refers to any person displaying symptoms which have been found to accompany COVID-19 ([Symptoms Checklist](#)).
- "Asymptomatic contact" refers to any person who does not display discernible symptoms corresponding COVID-19.



- “COVID-19 Positive Person” refers to any person who has received a confirmed positive test result for COVID-19.
- “Close contact” refers to “someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated,” ([CDC Source](#)).
- “Quarantine” refers to separating or restricting the movement of people, who have not yet tested positive, but might have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual.
- “Isolation” refers to the separation of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 from the rest of the school community.

Day to Day Procedures and Guidelines

Arrival and Screening

Proper screening of health and wellness is paramount for keeping our campus safe.

Symptoms are God’s gift to us and His wisdom evident in the design of our bodies to help us know if there’s a problem. All community members must agree to abide by the following:

- Self-check-in upon arrival on the **Oak Grove School App**
- Symptom observation throughout the day
- ***All staff, students, and any other guests must follow screening procedure upon entry to campus.***
- Families that do not follow screening procedures will be held accountable.

Mask Policy

Purpose of Masks: The primary purpose of a cloth face covering is to limit the spread of virus and bacteria coming from an individual that is sick. Over the past year and into the foreseeable future, local guidance and emphasis on wearing masks will vary. At this time, masks are required for all staff and students with the following exceptions:

- **Letter of Exemption** signed by a healthcare professional, submitted to the school nurse and approved by the school administration (contact the Nurse for a template and assistance)

Regardless of the above exceptions, **any community member showing any symptoms potentially related to COVID-19 and other communicable sicknesses will be required to wear a mask and report to the school nurse or nurse assistant immediately.** In most cases, the individual will be sent home until they demonstrate full recovery.



Community Member Becomes Symptomatic

- Any student that exhibits a temperature of 100.3°F or higher will be held in a disinfected, private space in the nurse's office and parents will be notified to pick up their student to be transported home.
- Any staff with a temperature of 100.3°F or higher will be directed to leave campus immediately.
- If a student presents any possible COVID-19 symptoms, the school nurse or assistant will complete an assessment and parents will be notified to pick up their student to be transported home.
- If an employee presents any possible COVID-19 symptoms, the school nurse or assistant will complete an assessment and the employee will be directed to leave campus immediately.

Recess, Breaks, and Lunch

- The outdoors is the safest environment for virus mitigation, per God's design! Students and staff will be encouraged to engage in learning and recreation outdoors as much as possible.
- Masks are not required outdoors, regardless of other factors, and there will be no segregation for this on campus.
- Students will bring their own prepackaged lunches; sharing of food and drink is not permitted.

Code of Conduct Implications

Out of love and respect for members of our community, all are expected to comply with all guidelines. Students who knowingly and repeatedly refuse to comply will be considered in violation of the Code of Conduct for Disruptive or Disrespectful behavior and can expect to be held accountable for their actions, as stated in the Handbook.

Community Care

Family Support

Regular support and resources to encourage families struggling during this season of COVID-19 will be provided by the Dean of Family Outreach, Ryan Gilmore.

Academic Support and Instruction

Learning on Campus

- Lesson Plans and Curriculum Guidance will be provided weekly to all families throughout the school year as usual.
- Families with unique needs are encouraged to reach out to teachers and the administration.



Full “Learn from Home” Contingency Plan

If a full time “Learn from Home” Model is implemented in response to statewide mandates requiring school campuses to close, Oak Grove will provide direct virtual or pre-recorded instruction for:

- all core subjects (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Logic and Rhetoric);
- Friday Refinement classes, and
- extra-curricular activities and programs in which optional resources will be provided, as well as virtual instruction if feasible.
- Special Circumstances not addressed in this document will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Administration.

Absence Policy

- All absences must be reported to the office via the “Report an Absence” form on the school app/website.
- All absences due to following COVID-19 mitigation protocol must be specified, and these will be relayed to the school nurse, Megan Diercks (megan.diercks@oakgroveowls.com, 505-269-2696).
- If a student is absent for non COVID-19 related circumstances, standard absence policies apply (see Family Handbook- Absences).
- Students absent due to following quarantine, isolation or health screening protocols will not be penalized for absences
- Students are responsible for all work missed during an absence. Students will have at least one day to make up work for every day missed.
- Excessive absences may lead to significant academic impact and potential loss of course credit. Students and parents must be in regular communication with the School Head if absences exceed 10 days.

Visitors

All visitors to the school must go through a proper screening process before entering buildings on campus.

Contact Tracing Requirements

- All staff and students who have been in contact with a person who has tested COVID-19 positive must immediately report to Nurse Megan Diercks (megan.diercks@oakgroveowls.com, 505-269-2696).
- Staff and students must follow quarantine and isolation protocols.
- Staff and student positive case identities will remain confidential to the fullest extent possible.



*Please Note: Contact tracing will be conducted for [close contacts](#) of **laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients**.

Quarantine and Isolation Protocols

(Applies to all Staff and Students)

Student or Staff Have Symptoms of COVID-19 (see [checklist](#))

1. Report to the school nurse immediately
 - if symptoms include fever, staff or students should be sent home as soon as possible;
 - other symptoms will be treated and assessed on a case by case basis.
2. If a staff member must go home, stay home to recover and work remotely as able.
3. Consult your healthcare provider and contact the school nurse on next steps.

*Additional CDC Guidelines on what to do if you are sick can be found [here](#).

Student or Staff have no symptoms, but close contact with symptomatic person

1. Be cautious, observant, and maintain social distancing and hygiene practices.
2. No need to test or quarantine unless the contact suspects they may have COVID-19, or is planning to be tested.
3. *If the close contact or household member is being tested and awaiting results, the school nurse should be informed. Neither students nor staff in the same household with an individual being tested may return to campus until test results have been issued, communicated to the school nurse, and permission is granted to return.

Student or Staff have no symptoms, but close contact with confirmed COVID-19 positive person

1. Report to the school nurse immediately.
2. [Follow NMDOH current requirements and protocol](#), generally, this includes a self-quarantine for at least 10 days.
3. Report the test results to school nurse.
4. Return to school once approved.

Student or Staff have tested COVID-19 Positive

1. Report to the NMDOH and the school nurse immediately.
2. Isolate until approved to return to campus by the school nurse.
3. Abide by the NMDOH follow up reporting guidelines.
4. Report to the school nurse for approval to return to campus.

Communication Procedures

- As stated, any concerns regarding symptoms or contact with COVID-19 positive persons should be reported to the school nurse, Megan Diercks (megan.diercks@oakgroveowls.com, 505-269-2696) as soon as possible.



- All personal information in reports will be kept confidential from the school community, and only communicated when necessary to administration.

Facilities and Operations

General Procedures

- Common areas, offices and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Evening janitorial staff will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the entire facility.
- Students will be instructed to bring their own water bottles labeled with their name.

Classrooms

- Best practices for classroom management and mitigation will be implemented, including the regular disinfection of surfaces and other spaces.
- All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, EPA approved (but non-toxic) disinfectant spray, and gloves.
- Students should only touch or handle their own learning materials (e.g., textbooks, pens).
- Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently.

Nurse Station

We have expanded our nurse station to be equipped for caring for students who become symptomatic and need to be quarantined.

Program Implications

Athletics Competitions and PE

- Oak Grove athletic competitions fall under the jurisdiction of the most current NMAA and APIAL requirements, as enforced by referees. Athletes and coaches will be expected to honor the most current guidelines. Parents who wish to challenge NMAA or APIAL requirements should appeal directly to these organizations.
- All coaches will be screened daily according to NMAA and APIAL requirements.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing). Individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- For more information on specifics, please contact Athletic Directors Jaylene West Jaylene.west@oakgroveowls.com (Grammar and Logic) or Matt Plugge matt.plugge@oakgroveowls.com (Rhetoric).

Morning Meeting

Students will gather in groups for Morning Meeting. Parents are welcome to attend Morning Meetings, but are expected to adhere to screening expectations and the guidelines of this document.



Schoolwide Events

We ask all parents and participants to be mindful of symptoms when considering attendance to any schoolwide event- indoors or outdoors. We expect all community members to show love for others by paying very careful attention to this principle.

Other Questions

While these policy guidelines have been intentionally designed to cover the most pertinent issues for families, students, and staff to know how to function in this unusual season, inevitably there are some questions that are not answered here. Depending on the question type, please direct as follows:

Reasons for Policies: Headmaster Winn (jonathan.winn@oakgroveowls.com)

Academics- Heads of Schools:

Grammar School- Leslee Schneider (leslee.schneider@oakgroveowls.com)

Logic School- Tabitha Bryant (Tabitha.bryant@oakgroveowls.com)

Rhetoric School- Melissa Duerksen (Melissa.duerksen@oakgroveowls.com)

Family Support and Care- Ryan Gilmore (ryan.gilmore@oakgroveowls.com)

Facilities, Operations, Admissions- Marcie Sherman (Marcie.sherman@oakgroveowls.com)

Athletics-

Grammar and Logic- Jaylene West (Jaylene.west@oakgroveowls.com)

Rhetoric- Matt Plugge (matt.plugge@oakgroveowls.com)

Quarantine and Isolation Protocol and Procedures- Megan Diercks
(megan.diercks@oakgroveowls.com)