

Trinity Christian Academy

Fall 2020 Reopening Plan



Updated July 22, 2020

A big thank you and call to action for such a time as this. . .

Thank you, TCA families, for your prayers, patience, and support as we continue to assess, plan, and move forward with bringing all of our Lions home for the 2020-2021 school year as safely as possible. We realize national and local health and media reports change quickly. We also recognize that many have differing opinions on how schools should move forward with reopening. Please be affirmed that Trinity's Administration and Board of Directors are prayerfully, faithfully, and confidently making decisions for the school with these guiding principles in mind:

1. Help protect our TCA Family - students, faculty, and staff
2. Fulfill our Christ-centered and excellence-driven mission now and for generations to come

God has called Trinity Christian Academy to assist Christian families and their churches in providing a Biblically-directed, academically excellent education that equips students to be Godly leaders and servants in their homes, churches, and communities.

As a Christian school where at least one parent is a professing believer in Jesus Christ, and a regular part of a Bible believing church community, we call upon our families to join us in intentionally striving to be a light for Christ. May our children and community see a positive difference in TCA and its families. May we all be bearers of God's faithfulness, love, and hope. We continue to lift you and our churches up to the Lord in prayer for holy protection, peace, and provision. Now is an exciting time for the Christian community to rise and to give God ALL the glory, for GREAT things He has done! Thank you for partnering with TCA as we seek to serve Him and your family.

Enclosed are initial plans for the new school year. TCA plans to fully reopen our campus with a modified school calendar for the fall semester for in-person learning. In addition, families may opt for an online learning option. TCA's full campus reopening will be guided by local health and government recommendations and requirements. We will provide regular updates through email, social media, and our dedicated COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.tcalions.com/>

Judy Brown
Head of School

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Revision Update for the 2020-2021 School Calendar

Decisions to modify the original August 6th start date stems from increased incidents of positive cases of Covid-19 in the Jackson/Madison County areas, including adolescents and children, and needed measures related to Covid to begin on-campus learning as safely as possible.

[Link to the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar \(Revised 7/22/2020\)](#)

[Link to the revised 2020-2021 Early Education Calendar \(Revised 7/22/2020\)](#)

Online Learning Option

In addition to traditional in-person learning, families have the option to choose the TCA Virtual Academy option. TCA Virtual Academy will be on the same schedule as the school day. Using their school-issued Chromebook (3 - 12th Grades), the student will observe and interact with lessons during their scheduled class time, and attendance will be taken. Assignments, instructional materials, virtual meeting links, assessments, and all class communication will be posted in the student's Google Classroom. Additionally, parents will be able to access assignments and grades through the Parent Portal or the RenWeb Family App.

If you choose the TCA Virtual Academy option, families and students will be required to commit to the online option for the first semester. A revised contract will be sent to families choosing the TCA Virtual Academy option, and families will be required to complete and return a TCA Virtual Academy signed agreement by August 7, 2020. After the first semester, the TCA administration will re-evaluate TCA Virtual Academy, and families will have the option to re-enter on-campus classes or continue with TCA Virtual Academy. Due to a modified schedule, the first semester will end on January 15, 2021. Students must be enrolled and meet the same expected criteria in the online learning option to be eligible for athletics in grades 6-12. Online learning is the same tuition price as on campus learning.

[Please click here if you are interested in signing up a student for TCA Virtual Academy for the first semester.](#)

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE FOR ON CAMPUS EDUCATION

TCA is committed to providing the best possible on-campus education experience while also implementing wise measures to limit the exposure of illness or infection of any kind. We are striving to create a welcoming, secure, and calm environment for all for optimal learning and development. **More specific policies and procedures for the following will be included in the Parent Student Handbook provided to families on August 7th pending local health and government requirements in addition to communication from area principals.**

- Morning temperature checks at designated contactless kiosk stations
- Addition of school nurse
- Increased facility cleaning in common and high-use areas consistent with CDC guidance; Auxiliary classes will be cleaned in between each class
- Daily sanitation of all playgrounds
- Traditional water fountains replaced with water bottle fillers school-wide
- Touchless soap and towel dispensers in all restrooms
- Hand sanitizing stations strategically located school-wide; regular hand washing and/or usage of hand sanitizer encouraged and often required
- Two restrooms and five additional classroom sinks added in Elementary classrooms
- Modifications to lunch service and protocol school-wide in partnership with our new local cafeteria vendor, Gourmet Your Way. More details to come.
 - At this time, masks will be required to enter the cafeteria and through the food line
 - Social distancing guidelines will be in place
 - Early Education through 1st grade will have lunch in their classrooms
- Reduced classroom sizes for optimal social distancing; class change modification in elementary grades and new daily schedule for grades 6-12 (More to come)
- A consistent modified block schedule created for grades 6-12 for both on campus and online learning
 - [Upper School Modified Block Schedule](#)
 - [Advantages of Modified Block Scheduling](#)
- Chapel, Harbor Groups, and Pride Tribes will continue with modified formats as needed or required
- Facility capacities will be limited. No outside visitors allowed, including families, for K-12 students until further notice. Separate communication will come from Kristie Tims, Elementary Principal, regarding supply drop-off and the first day of school.
- Until further notice, special events occurring during the school day will be virtual. No field trips will be scheduled for the first semester.

Athletics

TCA will comply with all guidelines provided by TSSAA for upper school athletics with defined safety measures in place. More details will come from our Athletic Director once finalized with current and pending information from governing authorities.

To mask or not to mask? That is the question!

At this time, we recommend all students grades in LL3 - Grade 12 wear masks or breathable face covers (gaiters) into the building and in common spaces (i.e. hallways, cafeteria entrance) until further notice. Unless mandated, students are not required to wear masks in the classroom, but are welcome to do so as parents or guardians prefer as it pertains to their personal safety. We will respectfully adhere to local government and health department guidelines and mandates and expect our families to do the same. All employees will wear either a mask or clear face shield in the presence of students until further notice. TCA will provide a cloth mask for each student and will maintain a supply of disposable masks. Employees will be provided with two clear protective face shields and masks.

More communication to come:

Additional details and clearly outlined policies will be provided as finalized. All policies and procedures will be included in the Parent Student Handbook provided to families on August 7th pending local health and government requirements including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Protocol if students are directly exposed to a positive case of Covid-19 is pending local health and government requirements**
- **Protocol if students test positive for Covid-19 is pending local health and government requirements**
- **Updated attendance policy**
- **Cafeteria guidelines will come by email from TCA's Business Office**
- **Carpool guidelines will be provided in the Parent/Student Handbook and in a recorded Parent Orientation and sent to all families on August 14th**
- **Elementary classroom letters and schedules for grades 6-12 will be emailed to parents and students on August 10th**
- **Parent Orientation will be pre-recorded and sent to families on August 14th**