Fall 2020 Reopening Plan

Our plan to provide a remarkable, God-centered education while keeping students and faculty safe and healthy.

Make your choice for the first academic quarter!
Due Fri, Aug 7th at 11:59 p.m.
Even through uncertainty, God’s in control.

Dear Hope Academy Parents and Staff,

All Hope Academy parents will need to make an important choice this fall about how to best educate your children—either in-person or online. We believe that having this flexibility is important to you, and so we’ve prepared this document to give you the information you need in order to make the best choice for your family.

If we look at learning across the ages and around the world, we will quickly realize that learning is rarely easy; it almost always comes at a sacrifice. Schooling during the last 100 years in America will likely be seen by historians as abnormal because of its relative ease. Our current pandemic has created conditions for learning that are actually more similar to the challenges faced by most schools throughout time—challenges such as wars, famines, economic depressions, etc.

C.S. Lewis described the challenge of learning during the second world war, like this:

“There are always plenty of rivals to our work... If we let ourselves, we shall always be waiting for some distraction or other to end before we can really get down to our work. The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while the conditions are still unfavorable. Favorable conditions never come... We must do the best we can.”

We have developed a reopening plan that is flexible, in order to meet the varied needs of our families. Our plan prioritizes the health and safety of our students and staff and addresses the educational, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of our students. As we cautiously proceed this fall, we ask you to continue to be in prayer for this year. It will be a school year like no other.

With firm hope in our faithful God, the Hope Academy community will persevere amid the current adversity and do all within our power to help all our children continue “to grow in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). I am praying for you as you make your choice.

Let Hope Arise.

Russ Gregg
Co-Founder & Head of School

Flexibility for Families (more info on pg. 10-13)

Because of the many different opinions about comfortability with returning to school in-person this fall, we have created a plan that allows for family flexibility. Each family will decide which option works best for them for the first academic quarter (ending Nov. 4th) and let us know their choice before Friday, August 7th at 11:59 p.m.

**Lower School:** 100% In-Person or 100% Distance Learning (online)

**Upper School:** 50/50 Hybrid or 100% Distance Learning (online)

A special thanks to our PFF team, Greater Minnesota Schools, Bellwether Education Partners, and the Achievement Network for all their hard work putting this plan together!
Our Guiding Principles

Months ago, as we began to plan for our Fall Reopening, we drafted four principles to guide our decisions.

1. Relationship of Love
   All our students and parents will be known, valued, respected, and involved. We will intentionally find ways to build a sense of family across cultures. We will value the beautiful diversity of our families.

2. God-Centered
   We will focus on the formation of virtuous kingdom citizens. We desire for our students to put their ultimate hope in Christ. We will practice digital discipleship.

3. Rigorous & Rich Instruction
   We will equip students to take on the challenge of college-level work, exhibit an unwavering pursuit of students, demonstrate a “no excuses” staff culture, and provide instruction that is culturally relevant to the students from our diverse Minneapolis community.

4. Redemptive
   We will redeem our less than ideal circumstances and leverage unique opportunities as needs change and opportunities arise. Our students come first. We will prioritize the needs of our families and students regardless of the sacrifices required.
The following modifications will be made for the start of the school year to keep our on campus staff and students as safe and healthy as possible.

**Breakfast & Lunch**
Students will be provided breakfast in their classrooms each morning. Hot lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Students in 3rd through 5th grade will eat lunch in their classrooms and students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade and 6th through 12th grade will eat physically distanced in the cafeteria. Plastic barriers will be placed on the cafeteria tables to separate students as masks will not be worn while eating.

**Masks**
As an act of love for one another and out of obedience to the Governor’s order, we are requiring all students and staff to wear face coverings. If your child has a medical condition that is covered under the exceptions in Governor Walz’s order, please contact our COVID-19 Program Coordinator at reopeningplan@hopeschool.org. There will be exceptions for K-2 reading lessons behind plastic barriers and for all students while eating.

**Transportation & Busing**
We are working to provide safe busing to and from school for students. We will enforce the use of face masks and physical distancing. Family groups will be able to sit together on buses. To reduce the number of students on buses, we are asking all parents who are able to drive their children to and from school to do so. Please contact Janette Takata at 612-540-2010 if you have any questions regarding transportation.

**Visitors**
Parents will not be permitted past the front entrance nor main office when entering the building. Non-essential visitors, non-essential volunteers, and non-essential activities involving external groups or organizations will be restricted.

**Drinking Fountains**
Drinking fountains are being replaced by touchless water stations. Although touchless water bottle fillers will be sanitized daily, we encourage staff and students to bring their own water in a water bottle to minimize use and touching of water stations.

**Cleaning Protocols**
Minnesota Cleaning Services has been hired to help clean during the day and evening. High touch surfaces will be cleaned multiple times during the school day. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily following a specific protocol. Each student will have their own individual school supplies.

**Handwashing**
Students and staff will be required to wash their hands with soap and water when entering the building each day. We have installed twelve additional hand sanitizing stations and will be using those along with sinks in the classrooms to have students regularly wash or sanitize their hands.

**Recess**
We will offer outdoor play in safe zones, with staggered shifts of student cohorts. If multiple groups are outside at the same time, they will have a minimum of 6 feet of open space between outdoor play areas. Students will wash their hands immediately after being outdoors.

**Lockers & Belongings**
Lower School will have their own container of school supplies to use that will be properly stored at their desk. Upper School students will be required to keep their belongings with them throughout the day instead of using lockers.
Temperature Checks & Screening

Temperature screenings will be done on every person that enters the building. As students and staff walk in, their temperature will be automatically be taken by a temperature scanner. Students using the parent pick up door will also have their temperature quickly monitored. Teachers will make a visual inspection of all students when they enter the classroom in the morning for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

Ventilation

Fresh air is being brought into the workplace, filtered air recirculation is being limited, and ventilation systems are being properly used and maintained. Rooms or offices that do not have adequate ventilation will have air purifiers.

COVID-19 Program Coordinator

Hope Academy is hiring a COVID-19 Program Coordinator. This person will help with day-to-day monitoring of student health and work with students, parents, and staff as they have questions and concerns.

Physical Distancing

Students will physically distance during their time in the classroom. Desk and tables will be separated and face the same direction when possible to minimize exposure. Plastic dividers will be installed in many classrooms as an added layer of protection. Physical distancing will also be maintained in the hallways. Waiting and reception areas will have floor and seat markings as well as plastic barriers. Staff will monitor arrival and dismissal to help eliminate congregation and ensure students are spacing and moving quickly between areas.

What if someone at Hope Academy contracts COVID-19?

This plan is based on mutual transparency, love, and trust for the safety of all our students and staff. Staff and families must self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or had a close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One student or teacher</th>
<th>The student/teacher will be in quarantine for 10 calendar days</th>
<th>The class cohort will resume as normal. If a teacher is out sick, a substitute teacher will be brought in for the class to resume as normal</th>
<th>Each classroom at Hope Academy will be cleaned to the COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting standards. Where applicable, each classroom will be fogged with disinfectant spray</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two students or two teachers (simultaneously within a cohort)</td>
<td>The class cohort will be in quarantine for 10 calendar days</td>
<td>The class cohort will move immediately into Distance Learning (online)</td>
<td>Each classroom at Hope Academy will be cleaned to the COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting standards. Where applicable, each classroom will be fogged with disinfectant spray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five or more students or staff members (simultaneously across 2 or more cohorts)</td>
<td>The entire school will be in quarantine for 10 calendar days</td>
<td>Hope Academy will move immediately to Distance Learning (online) for all students K-12</td>
<td>Each classroom at Hope Academy will be cleaned to the COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting standards. Where applicable, each classroom will be fogged with disinfectant spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family member of a student/teacher is diagnosed with COVID-19 and is living within the same household or had close contact</td>
<td>The student/teacher will be in quarantine for 10 calendar days</td>
<td>The student/teacher will move immediately into distance learning even if they have no symptoms</td>
<td>An assessment will be made after 10 days to determine whether the student/staff is ready to return to school in-person</td>
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Hope Academy will notify the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of confirmed COVID-19 cases among students and staff. Due to ongoing changes, Hope Academy reserves the right to modify the guidelines above based on current MDH and CDC guidance. If a student has COVID, parents will be notified of COVID cases within class cohort and bus cohort. All parents will be notified if an entire cohort must move to Distance Learning (online).
Lower School Fall Options

**OPTION #1**

100% In-Person

9:55 a.m. - 4:25 p.m.

For families who would like their Kindergarten through 5th grade children in school every day, or for families who are unable to provide the individual parental involvement for distance learning, Hope Academy is offering a 100% in-person option for students. This instruction will all be in-person at Hope Academy during the normal school hours of 9:55 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. This instruction will include all core subjects and specialist classes (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education).

Because of the social, emotional, spiritual, and mental health benefits of being together in-person as well as the benefits of in-person instruction, Hope Academy recommends this option.

**OPTION #2**

100% Distance Learning

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Students will be taught through an online format. Instruction will include times of live instruction, pre-recorded video lessons, and times of independent work. A parent must be committed to sitting alongside their child, viewing and working on the lessons for up to three hours each day. Instruction will happen during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and may require additional hours in the afternoon.

This instruction will include all core subjects, but will not include instruction in the Specialist Classes (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education). Additionally, parents will have a required weekly 15-minute virtual meeting with the classroom teacher.

In some cases, if parents are not able to provide the individual support expected or if students are not making the academic progress necessary, they will be asked to attend school in-person.

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**Lower School Cohorts**

The goal of the cohort model is to minimize the chances of exposure to COVID-19. Students in the Lower School will remain in stable cohorts. Their primary cohort will be their grade level classroom. Students will not mix with any other classrooms. Students can be in more than one cohort if necessary. For example, if a student rides a bus to school, the students on that bus are a cohort. In the event of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, the cohort model allows for us to quickly notify anyone else who may have been exposed.

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Make your choice for the first academic quarter!

Commitment Form due Friday, August 7th at 11:59 p.m.
Upper School Fall Options

50/50 Hybrid
For those who choose to enroll in the 50/50 Hybrid option, students will attend school in-person every other day. On the days students are not in school, they will receive their instruction online through Distance Learning. Students will be grouped into cohorts (see “Upper School Cohorts”). Each grade will have two cohorts. If a student is not making the necessary academic progress, he or she will be asked to attend school in-person every day.

Students who choose to enroll in the 100% online option will receive all their instruction through Distance Learning. Teachers will focus on Distance Learners every other day. Distance Learning instruction will happen during the hours of 9:55 a.m. to 2:47 p.m. This instruction will include all core subjects, but will not include instruction in the Specialist (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education), Advisory, or Elective classes. If a student is not making the necessary academic progress, he or she will be asked to attend school in-person every day.

Upper School Cohorts
Rather than rotating from classroom to classroom, students will be in mixed-gender, grade level cohorts that remain in one room for most of the day, while teachers visit each classroom to teach. Students will also sit as a cohort at lunch in the cafeteria. The only times where students will not be in their cohort will be on the buses and in specialist and elective classes. Cohorts will attend school on the same days together. After one academic quarter, we will reevaluate the cohort method dependent upon COVID-19 updates. In the event of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, the cohort model allows for us to quickly identify/notify anyone else who may have been exposed.

Students who choose to enroll in the 50/50 Hybrid option, students will attend school in-person every other day. On the days students are not in school, they will receive their instruction online through Distance Learning. Teachers will focus on Distance Learners every other day. Distance Learning instruction will happen during the hours of 9:55 a.m. to 2:47 p.m. This instruction will include all core subjects, but will not include instruction in the Specialist (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education), Advisory, or Elective classes. If a student is not making the necessary academic progress, he or she will be asked to attend school in-person every day.

Students who choose to enroll in the 100% online option will receive all their instruction through Distance Learning. Teachers will focus on Distance Learners every other day. Distance Learning instruction will happen during the hours of 9:55 a.m. to 2:47 p.m. This instruction will include all core subjects, but will not include instruction in the Specialist (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education), Advisory, or Elective classes. If a student is not making the necessary academic progress, he or she will be asked to attend school in-person every day.

Make your choice for the first academic quarter!
Commitment Form due Friday, August 7th at 11:59 p.m.
Lower School Offerings

**Spiritual Formation**
The number one goal at Hope Academy is to foster hope in God. Our commitment to shepherding the hearts of all students does not change whether students are 100% Distance Learning, 100% In-Person, or in a hybrid model. We teach every subject through the lens of a Biblical worldview to equip students to know and love the truth, and to use that knowledge to glorify God in all things. Circle times, devotions, prayer times, and chapels are examples of spiritual formation practices that will be a regular part of our students’ school day, whether online or in-person. Upper School chapel times will be held in a virtual format.

**Social/Emotional/Mental Health**
Instruction at Hope Academy is not just about academics. We pay particular attention to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students and have a variety of ways to address those needs. Student Support Teachers, Lower and Upper School Deans, and our School Social Workers are ready to come alongside students to address social, emotional, and mental health needs that go beyond the regular classrooms.

**Students Needing Additional Support**
Students who have struggled or are struggling with being successful at 100% Distance Learning (online) or with the Upper School 50/50 Hybrid Model of learning will be asked to attend school in-person every day. It is very important that we provide all the support needed so that each and every student learns and progresses as needed for their grade level.

**Athletics**
We continue to await word from the Minnesota State High School League and the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board about their decisions regarding fall sports.

**Technology**
Hope Academy has been blessed to be able to make a significant investment to provide devices for each student as we begin this school year. Students participating in Distance Learning (online) will be able to take their devices home. K-2nd students will get iPads, 3rd-8th graders will get Chromebooks, 9th-12th graders will get laptops. You will receive information about picking up your device in late August. All Hope students must have reliable access to the internet. If you are needing help with your internet, please contact the Main Office at 612-540-2000.

Upper School Offerings

**Specialists Classes**
K-5th students will receive specialist instruction (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education) within their cohort classrooms. Specialist teachers are continually working to provide new and innovative ways to enhance student experiences.

**Before & After School Care**
We plan to offer Before (7:45-9:45 a.m.) and After School Care (4:30-5:30 p.m.) for Lower School students. These are relaxed times of physically distanced social interaction and play. Fees will be on a sliding scale based on tuition. Registration details will be released later.

**House Tournaments**
One of the best ways we build a positive school culture in the Upper School is through our House System. Because we plan to start the year with 100% online and 50/50 Hybrid Models, only half of our students will be in the building on any given day. This means House Tournaments may need to be spread out between two days so that both halves of the student body will be able to participate in the tournaments.

**Specialists and Elective Classes**
Specialist classes (Art, Music, Technology, and Physical Education) will be held on days when students are in-person.

**Academic Support Center (ASC)**
The Upper School Academic Support Center will be open before school Monday through Friday from 8:45-9:45 a.m. (or 7:45 a.m. by special arrangement). The after school Academic Support Center will also be open Monday through Thursday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. We will be taking extra precautions to make sure that students are following COVID-19 safety protocols and physical distancing expectations.
**Parent Kick-Off Night (ALL K-12)**

**Monday, August 31st at 2:00 p.m.**

Because it is so important for our new Upper School students and 6th graders to meet their teachers, we are holding a **Open House** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 31st. There is no program as part of this event, so parents and students can arrive any time between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. so that visits are finished by 4:00 p.m. To limit the number of guests in the building, there is a limit of one parent and no siblings at the Open House.

**Monday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.**

**Online Event (link will be emailed)**

This is our first schoolwide event of the 2020-21 school year! During this online event, we will go over many important fall school announcements including our new school information system: PowerSchool, transportation update, uniforms, sick days, tech announcements, nutrition information and much more! We will also split into breakout groups for Upper & Lower School parents at the end of the presentation. This is a required event for all parents. See you then!

**Upcoming Events**

- **Meet the Teacher Appointment (K-5)**
  **Wednesday, September 2nd + Thursday, September 3rd**
  All Lower School parents (both 100% Distance Learning [online] and 100% In-Person) will sign up for a “Meet the Teacher” Appointment for Sept 2 or 3. Parents and students will meet together with the classroom teacher in the classroom for approximately 45 minutes. This is a chance to get to know each other, learn the classroom expectations, and ask questions. 100% Online students will receive their educational materials and device at that time. This is a mandatory event for K-5 parents and masks will be required.

- **New Family & 6th Grade Open House (6-12)**
  **Monday, August 31st from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
  Because it is so important for our new Upper School students and 6th graders to meet their teachers, we are holding an Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 31st. There is no program as part of this event, so parents and students can arrive any time between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. so that visits are finished by 4:00 p.m. To limit the number of guests in the building, there is a limit of one parent and no siblings at the Open House.

- **Make your choice for the first academic quarter!**
  **Commitment Form due Friday, August 7th at 11:59 p.m.**

  **Complete Form**

- **First Day of Upper School**
  **Wednesday, September 2nd**

- **First Day of Lower School**
  **Tuesday, September 8th**