



# OAK MOUNTAIN

A C A D E M Y

*Oak Mountain Academy provides a challenging college-preparatory education in a safe family environment. The school nurtures the ethical, spiritual, and physical development of students as they become confident leaders inspired to serve.*

September 2020

With a successful start to the new academic year we have now transitioned from a re-opening plan to a sustainability plan. The details of this plan are subject to change throughout the year. If any major changes occur, we will be sure to inform you of those changes and communicate as timely as possible.

- **Instructional cameras for remote learning are installed in classrooms.** There are some families who may not feel comfortable having their students seated in a classroom at this time; therefore, we have purchased and installed instructional cameras in each classroom with a view of the instructional area. Each teacher has rights to grant permission to each individual student for remote access into the classroom. In order for a student to have access to remote learning, parents will need to make prior arrangements with the division level Dean. The attendance policy outlined in the student handbook will still apply for all families.

When a parent selects the remote learning option for their student, the plan will be in place for a one-week period and will be re-evaluated each Friday for the coming week unless special circumstances present. This will be necessary for the teachers to adequately prepare and supply the students with the necessary resources in advance of the instructional periods.

- **Student and staff temperature readings.** The temperatures of all students and staff members are checked daily upon arrival with a non-touch infrared digital scanning thermometer and logged in as pass/fail at each division. Page 12 of the Student Handbook states, “Parents should not send a child to school with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater, or with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, a productive cough, or excessive nasal secretions. If a child develops any of these symptoms while at school, parents, guardians, or emergency contacts will be notified to pick up the child. Students should not return to school until they are free of fever and/or vomiting and diarrhea for no less than twenty-four (24) hours. If a student becomes ill while at school, he or she should notify the teacher of the illness. When leaving, the students, parents, and guardians should follow the sign in/sign out procedure.” Checking the temperatures of all individuals upon arrival will help us minimize the exposure of any potential illness within our community.
- **Additional disinfecting practices have been implemented.** Teachers have been asked to wipe down door handles, light switches, and desks in between each class change throughout the day with a disinfectant product. Newly purchased dry foggers are utilized by the cleaning crew each evening to assist with daily disinfecting of the facility.
- **Protective face coverings are worn at certain times throughout the day.** Although we are only requiring protective face covering at certain times throughout the day, any member of our community is welcome to wear a protective face covering at any and all times they feel it necessary. Staff and visitors are required to wear protective face coverings on campus during close engagement with individuals. Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> are required to wear protective face coverings on campus during close proximity activities such as entering/exiting the buildings at the start/end of each school day, science labs, class transitions, convocations, advisory assemblies, etc... Students in grades PreK3 through Kindergarten are required to wear protective face coverings on campus when entering/exiting the buildings at the start/end of each school day. Students are required to provide their own protective face coverings.

- **Visitors are limited and screened before entry into a building.** We are limiting the number of visitors on campus at the start of the new academic year. We require a temperature reading of visitors and protective face coverings to be worn while in the buildings. To minimize the number of visitors in the buildings, a drop off table has been placed outside the front doors of each division.
- **Specific lunch service and locations are identified.** Students have the option to purchase lunches from Campus Cuisine or bring their own. Designated eating areas in each division have been identified in an effort to place as much distance between the students as possible. In the Lower Division, students eat in their classrooms as usual. In the Middle Division, students have an opportunity to select from the following: solarium, gym, or outdoor picnic tables. In the Upper Division, students have an opportunity to select from the following: senior lounge (seniors only on a rotating schedule), patio, solarium, English room, or the drama room.
- **Additional bus transportation protocols.** Students opting to ride the morning bus are required to have their temperature checked at boarding, distance seating while riding, and wear protective face coverings. The bus is cleaned daily with disinfectant products.

We are unsure of how long the above-mentioned practices will be in place, but we will continue to monitor the recommendations from the medical professionals throughout the beginning months of school. Our team will continue to provide you with updates as necessary. Many discussions revolving around protocol planning in the event a student or staff member has suspicion of or is diagnosed with COVID-19. Please refer to the information outlined below for the following four protocols.

### **Symptomatic Student or Diagnosis of COVID-19**

This is defined as any OMA student who has received an official diagnosis of COVID-19 or has any symptoms as outlined by the CDC that could be associated with a diagnosis of COVID-19. In the event that a student is symptomatic or diagnosed with COVID-19, the legal guardian should follow the following protocols.

- Contact the Division Level Dean and Headmaster in writing as soon as possible.
- The student should remain in a home quarantined environment for a minimum of three days symptom free and return to school with a physician's note stating the student is able to return to school or the person receives a negative COVID-19 test result.
- If the student is sent home with a fever from school and the legal guardian suspects COVID-19, the student should remain in a home quarantined environment for a minimum of three days symptom free and return to school with a physician's note stating the student is able to return to school.
- If the student has a fever for more than one 24-hour period, the student should seek medical assistance from a physician.
- In the event that a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, the Headmaster will notify the community and parents will have the option to transition to remote learning at that time, if desired. When a parent selects the remote learning option for their student, the plan will be re-evaluated each Friday for the coming week unless special circumstances present. This will be necessary for the teachers to adequately prepare and supply the students with the necessary resources in advance of the instructional periods. However, if a student becomes ill during the week, the remote learning plan will be as long as needed and evaluated every Friday.

### **Primary Exposure (Direct Contact within 3 days)**

This is defined as any OMA student who comes in direct contact or has had direct contact with someone outside of OMA who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within a three-day period of that direct contact. In the event a student has primary exposure, the legal guardian should follow the following protocols.

- Monitor the student for potential signs and symptoms. If the student or parent has a concern about the level of exposure, they are encouraged to actively participate in remote learning for a three-day period.
- If the student begins to present signs or symptoms the student should seek medical assistance from a physician and return to school with a physician's note stating the student is able to return to school.

## **Secondary Exposure**

This is defined as any OMA student who has had contact with a Primary Exposure as defined above. In the event a student has secondary exposure, the legal guardian should follow the following protocols.

- Monitor the student for potential signs and symptoms of infection. If signs and symptoms begin to present the student should follow the protocol for primary exposure.
- If the student begins to present signs or symptoms at any time, the student should seek medical assistance from a physician and return to school with a physician's note stating the student is able to return to school.

## **Teacher/Staff Diagnosis**

In the event a teacher/staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the school will follow the following protocols.

- The Headmaster or Division Dean will contact the families of the students who have been in direct contact with the teacher/staff member.
- The teacher/staff member will remain in a home quarantined environment for a minimum of three days symptom free and return to school with a physician's note stating the teacher/staff member is able to return to school.
- During this three-day symptom free quarantine period, the teacher/staff member will continue to perform teaching and other duties remotely, if feeling well enough to do so. In the event that the teacher/staff member is not well enough to perform his/her duties remotely, the school will implement the emergency instructional backup plan.

There are no easy decisions, only decisions that we believe are made with the safety and health of our school community in mind. Thank you for putting your trust in the leadership, faculty, and staff of Oak Mountain Academy to educate your children during these times. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this plan further, please feel free to reach out – my door is always open. Together, we are Warriors!

Sincerely,

*Patrick J. Yuran*

Patrick J. Yuran

Headmaster

“We Are Ready When You Are...”