

Bethesda Academy

Blazers First
Safety First



Our Journey to Reopening the Doors to the 2020-2021 School Year

The Process



The Creation of the Bethesda Academy COVID-19 Task Force

In May, the Task Force was chosen and we began work immediately. The members of the task force were the President, Principal, Assistant Principal and Guidance Counselor, Dean of Students, Human Resources Director, Two Teachers, our Administrative Assistant and the Director of Maintenance.

We met weekly (virtually/in person). We read validated research and created our plan as it related to the newest information. We used templates and guides from the CDC, SCISA, the American Academy of Pediatricians and the States of Georgia and South Carolina. We agreed on six targeted areas to focus on and sent a survey to parents and faculty for their input. The surveys were very powerful and gave us our directional purpose.

92%

Of Parents responded to our
COVID-19 Survey

100%

Of Staff responded to our
COVID-19 Survey



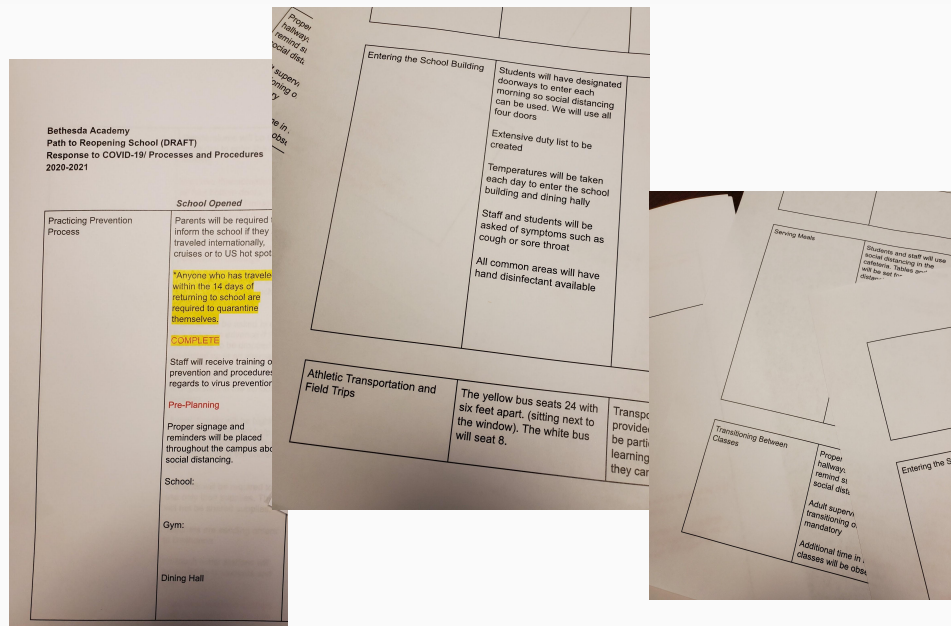
**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**

Our journey became clearer after reading research, understanding our internal capabilities and analyzing the surveys...

.....We agreed we can OPEN the DOORS of the School on August 19! We pushed our original opening date forward one week so staff to have additional preparation time. We are also hoping this would allow the local COVID-19 positive test numbers and hospitalization numbers would decrease.

Target Areas of the Journey to Reopen Bethesda Academy

1. Practicing Prevention Processes
2. Entering the School Building
3. Athletic Transportation
4. Serving Meals
5. Transitioning Between Classes
6. Teaching and Learning



Prevention



Temperature Screening for All Staff and Students every morning

Masks will be required of All Staff and Students with the exceptions of eating, physical education, recess, outside work studies.

Desks and tables will be disinfected after each class period. Additionally, each classroom, office, gymnasium and dining hall will be disinfected each evening with a peroxide based fogger spray.

No- touch water fountains are being installed in the school, gymnasium and dining hall.

Upgraded air quality systems in the school, gymnasium and dining hall. Key components of the upgrade:

- **Installation of MERV-13 air filters**
- **Needle Point Bi-Polar Ionization devices. This device will block the Virus from being able to circulate in the buildings.**
- **Programmed thermostats to provide an air flush six times a day
So air can be circulated out of the building.**

Desks/tables have be rearranged to utilize all classroom/dining hall space to be distanced from each other.

Prevention (Continued)

Professional Development for all staff on safety practices

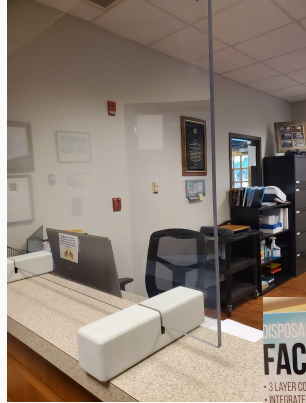
Purchased containers for each student to have their own supplies

Purchased additional PPE

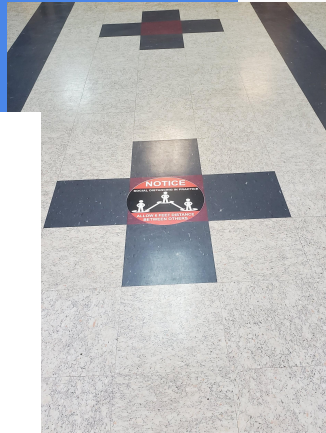
Signage and Floor markings have been placed on walls and floors

Hand sanitizing stations have been installed in every classroom/hallways/gym/dining hall

Creation of a sick room



Entering the School



All Staff and Students will be screened at the door before entering the building with a wellness, mask and temperature check. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home immediately.

Students will be assigned to one of the four entry doors coming in to the school so we can ensure there will be no gathering of students.

No other people will be let into the school without an appointment.

Parents will be asked to call ahead if their son will come to school late or picked up early so we can be prepared to screen late students or send students to their parents outside when they arrive.

Students will go directly to their classroom as gathering in the hallway will not be permitted.

Students will be assigned a seat for proper social distancing.

Hands will be sanitized after leaving the bus.

Windows will be down when applicable

After each use each seat and common space will be sanitized.

We will use all available transportation so proper spacing can be utilized.

There will be no field trips granted for the foreseeable future.

Athletic Transportation



Dining Hall



**We have redesigned our dining hall for optimal usage.
We can comfortably sit 45 people at one time six feet apart.**

Proper signage has been placed for reminders.

Four sanitizing stations have been hung.

No touch water fountain is installed.

Additional trash cans have been purchased so students will not have to gather to throw away their food.

The lunch schedule has been staggered to decrease the amount of students and staff in the dining hall at one time.

Each table and chair will be disinfected after each use.

Lexington Food Service personnel have been properly trained in many safety procedures including wearing face shields and gloves at all times.

The faculty and school administration met virtually to create new transitioning processes for movement around the school.

Creative scheduling has allowed for less hallway movement.

Two staff restrooms have transitioned to become additional restrooms for students to avoid multiple people being in one area.

Additional faculty duty stations have been created to enhance monitoring of students.

Signage on walls and floors will remind students of distancing themselves from each other.

Arrival and Dismissal procedures have been changed to decrease the number of students in the hallways.

Transitioning Between Classes



Teaching and Learning



Teachers and students will be socially distanced away from each other as much as possible wearing masks.

Teachers are responsible for disinfecting desks and tables after each class period.

Per our enrollment contract all students must have laptops at school that the family provides.

The first two weeks of school will consist of these four things: **building relationships, teaching safety practices, ensuring students and parents understand the components of Google Classroom and Virtual Meeting Spaces and Pre-Assessments of student knowledge.**

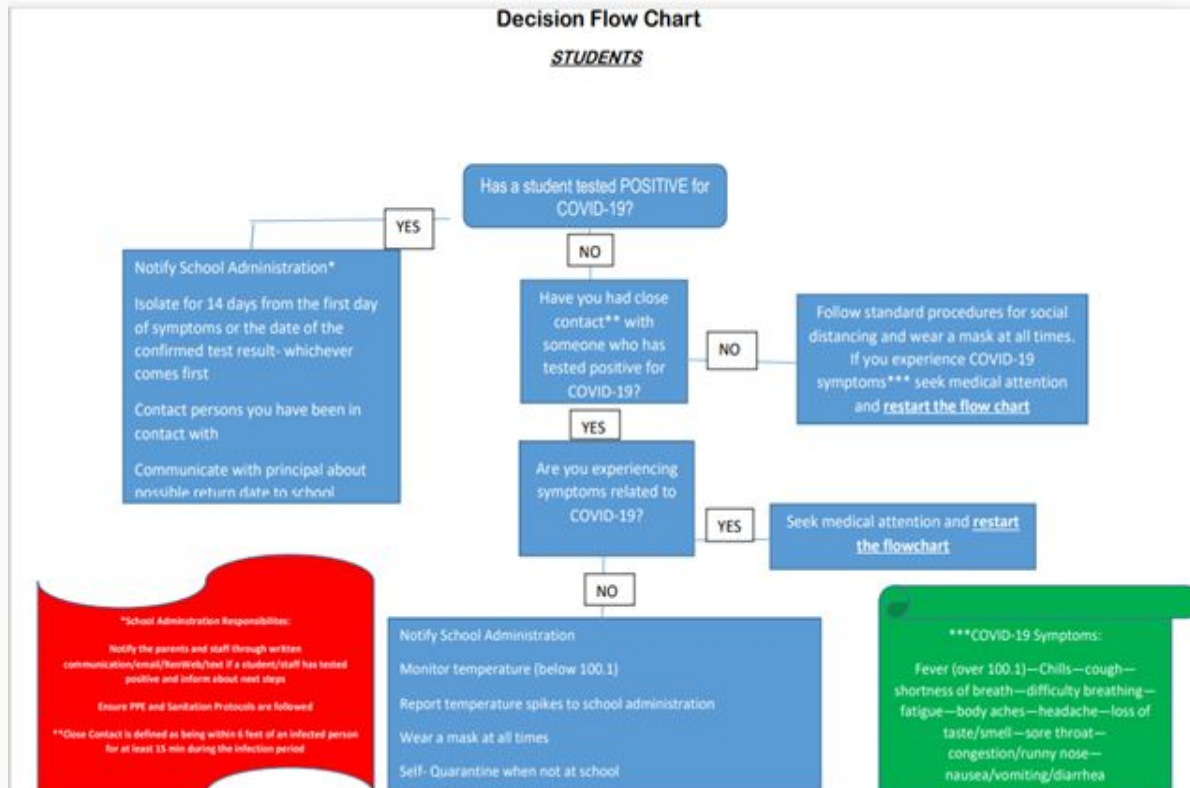
During our nine days of pre-planning, faculty will participate in several professional development opportunities that will enhance the classroom experience to our “new normal”.

Our Distance Learning Plan will be disseminated to parents prior to the beginning of school in the case we have to switch to distance learning.

What if....

In the case a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 we have laid out a flowchart to help our Bethesda Community make decisions about the well being of our family. We used information from local and State resources to create the plan. The Bethesda Academy Administration will communicate with ALL parties involved.

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Additional Information

Our task force chose not to do a face- to- face open house rather any family can make an appointment with the admissions director for an individual tour.

The school has purchased supplies and containers so student supplies can be individually stored. Face shields have been purchased so all science labs can be taught safely.

The Task Force team alongside the School Leadership Team will be monitoring changes in the community on a daily basis.

All information regarding the opening of school is being communicated through email, Ren Web, social media and our school's website.

Website: www.bethesdaacademy.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bethesda-Academy-112707498760536/?fref=ts>