



Improvise. Adapt. Overcome. Love. (...cont.)

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Dear LCHS Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. We hope everyone is having a restful summer with family and friends. Much time has been spent developing plans, discussing various scenarios, and putting contingencies in place should the need arise. It is important for everyone to approach the coming school year with as much flexibility as possible, because school-health regulations continue to change on a regular basis and with short notice.

We are currently planning for students to be back in school this fall. We are adhering to state and county health-department measures to keep people safe when they are here. The following contingency scenarios allow us to be flexible if we are forced to adjust during the school year.

At this time, we are working to implement Plan A, which has all students in the building starting the 2020-2021 school year. We have purchased individual desk shields for every student desk. These clear, three-sided shields allow us to educate students in classroom while maintaining recommended physical distance in the classrooms. Classroom desks will be properly spaced. Seating charts will be developed for each class period, which will aid in contact tracing if there is an outbreak in the school.



A few other procedures will look differently. In the morning, students should not arrive earlier than 7:15AM, as the Stoa will no longer be open before classes begin. Students will wait outside, physically distanced from each other along the sidewalk, until 7:30AM, at which point they will enter the building and go directly to their first-period classrooms. Students will be required to wear masks when they are entering and leaving the building as well as when they are in the hallway. Masks (face masks and/or cloth face coverings only; bandannas will not be allowed) must adhere to the other aspects of the Dress Code, including solid colors and patterns and

excluding writing, pictures, or large logos. Masks may come off when students are in their seats behind the desk shields. Lunch will be eaten in designated locations throughout the building and outside based on student-preference requests made during lunch on the first two days of school.

Students will be allowed to bring backpacks into classrooms, and visits to lockers will be greatly reduced. No congregating at lockers will be allowed. Traffic flow during passing periods will be modified to only allow students to flow in one direction. Two minutes will be added to each passing period to accommodate the restricted traffic flow, as well as help with increased sanitization of desk spaces and hand washing. The school day will need to be lengthened by 15 minutes to accommodate this extra time, and will therefore end at 3:30PM instead of 3:15PM (8th period will end at 3:00PM instead of 2:45PM).

We are also working to purchase technology to allow for classes to be simulcast online for students who are sick, quarantined, or have medically-related issues which preclude in-person attendance.

Daily cleaning is being enhanced. At the end of each class, we will provide disinfectant wipes so students can clean their desk and desk shield before they go to their next class. Our custodial staff will undertake a stringent cleaning regimen every night. We are also enhancing our air-filtration system to reduce particulates and generally elevate indoor-air quality.

As a contingency, Plan B includes dividing all students into two groups by last name. Students in one group would come on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday one week, and then Tuesday and Thursday the next week. Students in the other group would come on Tuesday and Thursday one week, and then Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the next week. The in-person classes will be simulcast to students at home in an online format. We would disseminate Chromebooks to families in need. Instruction would be provided via online video-conferencing programs as well as Google Classroom to exchange documents with classroom instructors.



This contingency plan will be employed if the school is forced by state officials to have fewer students (14 – 16 pupils) in the classrooms, as it would cut our daily student population in half, creating more physical distancing in the building.

As a last resort, Plan C would accommodate instructing all students online, much the way we did throughout the 4th quarter of the last school year. As with Plan B, we would disseminate Chromebooks to families in need and use similar online video conferencing programs in addition to Google Classroom.

Our strong preference is to have our kids back in school this fall. Learning occurs best when students are physically on-site and together to learn the Core Knowledge and classically-oriented curricula directly from our professional instructors in-person.

Although this school year could look very different, and will likely be less-than-ideal, our intention is to work together to ensure students receive the best education possible. We take education very seriously and will continue to make it the school's top priority. Keeping families and students safe remains a broader community, and family priority, and cannot be compromised. We will do our best to continue helping students achieve their families' educational objectives safely while here at Liberty. Thank you for your patience as we navigate the most successful pathway forward.

Mrs. Kearney, Dr. Robinson, and I will host a couple Question & Answer meetings to discuss what our school days will look like for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are the schedule, and video-conference details:

Monday, August 3rd at 5:00PM <https://libertycommon.zoom.us/j/95165459355>

Tuesday, August 4th at 5:00PM <https://libertycommon.zoom.us/j/92539664058>

We hope you can join us to learn about how we are making this year successful for all our students. We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. As I mentioned at the start of this communication, guidance is continually changing, so we want to give you all the most up-to-date plans and information. Have a great rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Torgun J. Lovely

Principal of Liberty Common High School

Omnes viae tuae stabiliant – Let all your ways be steadfast. (Motto for the 2020-2021 School Year)