



## Alliston Community Christian School

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Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Dear Parents,

It is exciting to think that school will be starting in just a few weeks, the Lord willing! Along with the usual Essential Materials List, in this letter I will be outlining the new look for school at ACCS in September. There is a diversity of opinions about our current circumstances, but in the end, we are all agreed on trying to achieve maximum potential with minimal risk, and to honour the Lord in doing so. We are committed to the health, safety and rich education of our people—students, parents and staff. We ask that you recognize that we cannot please everyone, but that we are doing our best to satisfy the requirements put upon us.

The main emphasis of the current recommendations is cohorting and health & safety. To achieve these objectives, we have consulted many documents and participated in several very helpful seminars. We have considered the recommendations from the Ministry of Education, Edvance, and Sick Kids Hospital and have submitted our plans to [Edvance.ca](http://Edvance.ca) and our Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit.

Accordingly, in-person delivery of teaching and instruction will resume at ACCS, five days a week, the Lord willing. A condensed version of our 8-page plan is listed below:

### Site Changes

1. Touch-less soap and sanitizer dispensers, hand driers and taps will be installed.
2. Drinking fountains and the vending machine will be disabled, but the water bottle filling station will still dispense good filtered water.
3. All health and safety guidelines regarding cleaning and sanitation will be followed.
4. Desks will be forward facing and separated for maximum physical distancing.
5. Visitors will be limited to “essential visitors only,” however parents are still welcome to take their children into the building. They are asked to wear masks.
6. Plexiglass may be installed at the front reception desk.

### Daily Routines

1. We are deliberately aiming to keep Covid-19 with its fear and anxiety from being the focus at ACCS. Accordingly, there will be a sensitive orientation by teachers of the symptoms and changes.
2. Daily screening for Covid-19 symptoms are a parental responsibility. Included in this package is a screening form. We ask that parents keep a child home more readily now than before if he/she has the sniffles or a slight fever. If a student seems to have Covid-19-like symptoms at school, parents will be called for pickup and we will do our best to discretely care for the child and protect other people.
3. Masks will not be required for students JK-Grade 4, but are optional.
4. Students in Grades 5 and up will enter the building with their masks on, and will keep them on until they are seated at their desks in their classrooms. They are to wear them for hallway and washroom access, but masks are not required outdoors. Students are to bring their own masks, but there will be some available at the office for those who forget. Cloth or disposable masks are acceptable, but not shields.
5. Washrooms will be limited to a number at a time (unless the need is urgent), and sinks, stalls and/or urinals may be disabled to ensure physical distancing. Signs will be posted.

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6. On arriving at school, students are to go straight to their classes to minimize hall congestion. More details will follow.
7. Teachers will wear masks when they cannot maintain a 2m physical distance from others.
8. More classes may be held outdoors while the weather is pleasant.
9. Recess and dismissal procedures will be slightly changed to reduce congestion. More details will follow about dismissal and pick up procedures.
10. Cohort groups will be assigned to specific areas of the playground and recesses may be staggered to maintain cohorts.
11. Sharing of food and water bottles is not allowed.
12. Students will wash and sanitize hands on arrival, before and after food, washroom and recess breaks, and sports.

### **Curricular Changes**

1. Physical education classes will be taught by homeroom teachers. Gym clothes will not be required for students JK-Grade 6.
2. French will be taught by homeroom teachers.
3. Music/band will be suspended until after Christmas. Homeroom teachers may cover some topics. Private lessons may be offered.
4. Library access will continue but with smaller groups to keep ablaze and foster a love for reading. Books will be permitted to go home but will be quarantined for 7 days on return.
5. Learning support groups and individual meetings will still be a priority to ensure our students feel supported.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

1. Large Gatherings (Chapels/assemblies/concerts) will be suspended until after Christmas. When possible, Chapels will be held outside or live streamed into the classrooms.
2. Team sports will be by class groups. Inter-school sports are currently not planned.
3. There will be no before- or after-school care services.
4. School lunches (Pizza on Mondays) will continue.


We ask that you respond to this letter by email to a) confirm the enrolment of your children by simply listing their names and grade levels, and b) your acceptance of this plan for September.

Rest assured that we view the safety of your children as a top priority while we do everything we can to deliver an ever-improving education. We will continue to review and adapt as circumstances change. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we prayerfully prepare for the school's re-opening. Please submit any questions and we will address them through a [Covid-19 FAQ](#) page on the website as they come.

Regarding personnel changes, we are sad to see Kristin Peereboom take her leave from the front office as she pursues God's leading elsewhere. The place will be filled by Jessica Aelick (Tuesdays and Fridays), Karin Watson (Thursdays), and someone else (to be announced soon!) on the other days.

We are very excited about having your children at school again! It is going to be a fantastic year, and such a great blessing after how we spent Term 3! The school is safe and welcoming and the teachers are ready to lead them to many new discoveries!

Sincerely,



Richard Sommer  
Principal

*Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

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