

Heritage Christian School Return to Learn FAQ

What are Heritage's current plans for Fall 2020?

Heritage's plan is to safely reopen school and provide instruction on campus to the fullest extent possible. Heritage is implementing a comprehensive [Return to Learn Plan](#) to execute this option.

What might cause Heritage to implement Remote Learning as part of the plan?

- State-mandated school closure.
- Student/Staff illness may close the building for a period of time for deep cleaning.
- Select classes may move to Remote Learning if a student or staff member in that class has been directly infected.
- *Our current plan is based on information we have at this moment and is subject to change based on the local or state health department or other state governmental mandates.*

Will my child be required to wear a mask?

One of the best ways to help slow the spread of the virus is by wearing a facemask and/or face shield. We also realize that masks will need to be removed throughout the day (e.g., lunch, drinks, recess, etc.), so requiring their use at all times for all ages throughout the day is not feasible. We also know younger students and students with sensory issues may have trouble wearing masks for extended periods of time. With all that in mind, **we will be requiring all students to wear masks upon arrival to the school building and in common areas. Masks are required in the classrooms for all students in grades PK-8.**

Will teachers be required to wear a mask?

Teachers will be required to wear face masks and/or face shields during school hours while inside the building in common areas. Teachers may choose to utilize facemasks or face shields while in their respective classrooms.

Will Heritage have Chapel this year?

At this time, we anticipate being able to gather in smaller groups for spilt chapels. We are currently working to revise chapel schedules to allow PreK-5th grade chapel on Wednesday mornings and Middle School chapel on Friday mornings. Chapel will likely look different this year as we are limiting visitors in the building so external speakers will be fewer and more teachers and staff will be speaking to our students. We are still evaluating singing and how to do that safely this school year.

Will Heritage be offering Heritage Singers and Band this year?

We anticipate offering our traditional music program for students this year; however, we are currently determining the details of practices and future performances. We anticipate having a plan for what Heritage Singers and Band look like during the school day (e.g., practicing while social distancing, etc.). We will evaluate the logistics of performances closer to the individual events in compliance with the most current state guidelines.

Will Heritage have middle school athletics?

At present, we are planning for athletics for the 2020-2021 school year. We are utilizing the most recent guidance from the Iowa Department of Education on how to have students safely participate in team sports. We are also currently planning games with other schools; however, guidance on attendance for fall and winter sports is still forthcoming. We will provide details on spectator attendance and requirements for entrance to various venues as that guidance becomes available.

Will Heritage offer Before and After School care?

At this point, we are planning to offer our Before and After School Program in compliance with our current licensure. We are working on a plan to safely accommodate students during these times.

Will Heritage be adjusting its starting and ending date?

Heritage has changed our start date (August 17) but our end date remains the same (May 28). We made the decision to start one week early to allow for students to readjust to the school/classroom environment after having been out the school setting for five months. We will use this early start to help students become reacquainted with the learning environment and adjust to new requirements for this unique school year (e.g., social distancing, enhanced hand washing and sanitizing, etc.). We also chose this option to allow for early monitoring of student progress and to determine how best to support the needs of individual students in the coming year.

Safety Procedures

How are we making our decisions?

Heritage created a Return to Learn team that will continually monitor information from the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Johnson County Public Health Department. As situations warrant, this team will meet to review new guidance or mandates and communicate decisions accordingly.

What is the plan to allow students to attend school on campus safely?

- See the [Return to Learn](#) for further details
 - We will be requiring all students to undergo temperature checks each morning before entering the building.
 - Student temperatures at or above 100.3 will not be allowed to enter the building
 - Students who display [symptoms of COVID-19](#) will not be allowed to enter the building
 - ***If your child has a temperature or displays symptoms please keep them home from school.***
 - Physical distancing will be required in the classrooms and all learning spaces.
 - Each classroom is being treated as its own cohort and we are working to keep each cohort as contained as possible – staggering recess dismissals and keeping classes apart on the playground, etc.
 - Face coverings are required for students in their classrooms and common areas and they should have a mask available in the event classes are participating in activities where distancing is not possible.
 - Face coverings will be provided for all staff. We anticipate having limited supplies available for students to purchase. [Click here](#) to view the Heritage facemasks.
 - We are removing all soft surfaces from classrooms to allow for easier cleaning of classroom surfaces.
 - Janitorial staff will disinfect lockers, desks, and door handles nightly.
 - Plexiglas barriers are being installed in the office and other locations in the building to provide additional transmission barriers.

How are you keeping students safe during arrivals and departures?

- See the [Remote Learning Plan](#) for full details

- Morning Arrival
 - Students will enter the building through designated entryways
 - PreK-2nd Grade – Main Entrance
 - 3rd – 4th Grade – Playground Entrance
 - 5th Grade – Middle School – Parking Lot Entrance
 - All students will have temperatures checked and be provided hand sanitizer prior to entering the building.
- Afternoon Dismissal
 - Traditional dismissal procedures will remain in place. Students will be called out by car number.
 - Parents who wish to avoid the car line may park and wait on the sidewalk – students will be called out and you can meet them there.
- ***Parents, we are limiting entrance to the building this year, please do not enter the building during drop-off and pick-up.***

How are you keeping students safe during passing periods?

We are developing plans that will stagger student dismissal to specials and lunch periods. In Middle School students will be sanitizing desks prior to the end of each class and staggering their dismissal and entry into their next class. Teachers will be monitoring transitions and passing periods in order to keep students appropriately distanced.

Will visitors and volunteers still be able to come on campus?

Yes, but on a limited basis. All visitors and volunteers will be temperature scanned and be required to wear a mask while in the building. We are working on a plan for volunteers (e.g., lunch service, Friday Bible memory verses, etc.) and will be communicating specifics of that plan before the beginning of the school year. We are also asking that parents not bring lunch and eat with their students in class this year.

What will the lunch program look like when we return to school?

We are still working with our caterer on what the school lunch program will entail (at this time the school lunch program will likely remain as a hot lunch program). Lunches have always been staggered at Heritage to allow for students to pick up lunch and return to their class – this will continue for the 2020-21 school year. Teachers and staff will be in the hallways to monitor and ensure social distancing in the hallways.

COVID-19 Health

Our Mission has always been to partner with parents and this year we are depending on that strong partnership. If students are showing symptoms or have knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19, we ask that you take extra precautions before allowing your child on campus. Please follow the guidelines below and stay in close communication with the school.

Will teachers and/or students with symptoms be required to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to returning to school?

Yes, individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will need a doctor’s note or negative COVID test result prior to returning to Heritage.

Will we need to contact the school if our child or member of household tests positive for COVID-19?

Health care providers are generally required to notify the child's school in the case of a positive COVID-19 test result. We also ask that you notify Heritage when either a student and/or household member tests positive. We will work with those families if transition to Remote Learning is needed as well as determine next steps for other students/staff who may have been exposed to that student.

What should I do if my child has been exposed to someone with COVID-19?

Notify the school and we will advise you on next steps such as COVID testing, self-quarantine, move to Remote Learning, etc.

Will there be quarantined spaces for individuals displaying COVID-19 symptoms at school?

Yes, Heritage has designated a short-term quarantine room for individuals displaying COVID-19 symptoms while waiting to be picked up by a parent or emergency contact.

Financial Questions

If COVID-19 directly affects my job and financial situation, are there ways to help meet my tuition obligations should that be needed?

Yes. Heritage has increased our Bridging the Gap (Tuition Assistance Program) this year with this exact issue in mind. Please contact the school if you are experiencing a financial situation that could impact tuition payment.

What will tuition be in the upcoming year?

Tuition amounts are published in your enrollment agreement and on the Heritage website. The 2020-2021 tuition will not be adjusted for possible changes in educational programming as we will continue to provide high-quality education regardless of In-person or Remote Learning options.

Will tuition be adjusted if we experience sporadic closures?

No. Teachers will continue to plan and provide instruction remotely (as required by the Iowa Department of Education for all students – public and private) and students will receive their full Heritage education and support even if a return to Remote Learning is mandated by the state.