Charleston Development Academy Public Charter School

2020-2021 Reopening DRAFT Plan

After much thought, consideration, discussion, and valuable input from our stakeholders Charleston Development Academy has established a “Default Position” of offering face-to-face classroom instruction at both campuses for as many students as possible using health and safety protocols. Charleston Development Academy’s plan maximizes in-person learning opportunities to the fullest extent possible, while also taking prudent steps to keep our students, staff, and community safe and to adhere to public health orders. We also understand some families may prefer a virtual/eLearning environment as an option – those families may take advantage of the district’s virtual academy. This draft is based on guidance and recommendations from the South Carolina Department of Education’s AccelerateED Taskforce as well as our state’s public health officials. The plan is also in alignment with Charleston County School District. The plan will be adjusted based on updated data and guidance from these entities. Charleston Development Academy’s plan incorporates the following public health precautions

**(Subject to change):**

**Social Distancing**

Students and staff will practice social distancing, remaining 6 feet apart, with 6 feet being emphasized. Those rules will be in effect for classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, offices and playgrounds. Teachers are asked to limit items inside classrooms in order to open additional space within the classroom. Where the 6 feet rule can't be achieved, barriers and PPE will be utilized.

**Masks**

CDA will provide a reusable mask for all students and asks that families supplement that mask with additional reusable ones. Face shields will be available for teachers to allow for “better comprehension” during instruction. Short mask breaks will be included for students throughout the day. Masks are required for students and staff with some limited exceptions:

* Any student with health conditions that makes the wearing of a face covering a risk to their health must be accompanied by official written Physicians Orders
* When students are performing tasks that cannot be completed while wearing a face covering (eating, drinking, etc.)

**Virtual instructions are available**

Families that don’t feel comfortable returning to school, CDA is offering them the chance to opt into the district’s full-time virtual learning.

**School Communication**

We are asking all families to ensure that their contact information is up to date and available in multiple formats (telephone: mobile, home and work, email, etc.)

Families should also ensure that their emergency contact information and relevant phone numbers are updated by contacting the school.

**School Nights/Open House**

Open houses, back-to-school nights, assemblies, etc. will be converted to virtual formats.

**Uniforms**

Students are required to wear complete uniforms while attending school.

**Bookbags**

Currently we are asking students to limit the use of bookbags. Students should only bring the required essentials to school.

**School Lunch**

Elementary Meals will still be served in the classrooms. Middle School students will have the option of eating in the café.

**Gym Class**

During gym class, there will be no physical contact activities. Shared equipment must be cleaned before and after each use. Physical training will include exercising, running/walking, jump-roping and non-contact activities.

**Hallways**

All non-essential movement inside school buildings will be limited.

## Health and Safety

Our school nurse will be on-site to screen students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Each campus will have a designated isolation room, and “proper protocols” will be followed in the event of positive cases.

Wipes, paper towels, cleaning solutions will be available for the use of the adult in the classroom. CDA will follow local, state and national guidelines for reporting COVID-19 cases.

Any student or staff member with a fever above 100.4 degrees or COVID-19-like symptoms must **NOT** come to school.

**Sanitization and Clean Buildings**

CDA will take extra steps to ensure that all school facilities are providing safe and healthy learning environments, with protocols and actions that include: DISINFECTION of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces twice each day.

**FOGGING** with disinfectant equipment of both campuses will be done at least three times a week.

**HVAC FILTER** will be upgraded.

**Symptoms to Monitor**

CDA expects families to monitor their children for potential COVID-19 symptoms. Those experiencing the following symptoms **MUST** stay home:

* Fever (over 100.4 F) or chills
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* Headache
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea

Should your child develop any of the above symptoms they will be immediately place in isolation and the child’s parent will be called. Parents will have 30 minutes to pick up their child from school.

**Immunizations**

It is the responsibility of families to ensure that student immunizations are updated before each new school year.  **Tdap Vaccine** is required for all seventh graders in **South Carolina**. The **Tdap vaccine** protects against three serious diseases: **tetanus**, diphtheria, and **pertussis** (whooping cough).

**Hand-Washing**

Hand-washing breaks will be included at schools throughout the day. Signs about proper hand-washing techniques will also be placed throughout the school buildings.

**Hand Sanitizer**

Our school buildings will be equipped with hand-sanitizing stations. Hand sanitizer will also be available in every school classroom and offices throughout the building.

**Professional Development For Staff**

During the week of August 11, teachers will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of professional development sessions around the new safety procedures, our online learning tools (e.g., Canvas, our new Learning Management System), and the teaching expectations for a schedule.

**Students with Disabilities**

Teachers and service providers will continue to provide specially designed instruction and/or related services outlined in a student’s current IEP or 504 Accommodations Plan. If adjustments need to be made given the instructional model in place for the student (such as Virtual Academy), IEP teams and 504 committees will convene to consider any amendments to special education goals, services, and accommodations to best meet the needs of the student considering any health and safety procedures and the instructional setting.

**Early Childhood**

As our youngest students may need additional support to adjust to the new safety procedures, students will begin all pre-K programs one week after in-person instruction begins across the district. Teachers then will take a second week to bring students back in small groups for a day at a time to help them learn and adjust to school expectations. This two week delay (opening one week late and having one week with small groups each day) will give principals and teachers time to teach the older children about the new procedures and ease the transition for our youngest students. We also anticipate pre-K classes will be smaller this year to allow for social distancing.

**Visitors and Volunteers**

Due to COVID-19, CDA is restricting all school visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups. This policy will be in place at least throughout fall 2020.

Only CDA staff and students will be permitted in your child’s classroom. Exceptions will include:

* Outside vendors or contractors whose services are required for the safe provision of school services.
* Scheduled meetings with parents or guardians that must be by appointment only. These should take place in a conference space adjacent to the front office and should not take place in classrooms.
* District employees who must be on-site as part of their responsibilities to school.

As much as possible, all meetings will move online. Parents or guardians picking up students from school will be restricted to their cars.

**COVID-19 Testing For Employees Returning To Work**

Testing for school faculty no more than two weeks before returning to work will be highly recommended. Arrangements have been made with medical providers to offer testing free of charge COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES Protocols are in-place for notification and prompt contact tracing of COVID-19 positive cases to determine necessary quarantining and facility cleaning.

**Student Absences Related to COVID-19**

Each day, teachers will continue to record attendance. A student could be recorded as present if the student is participating in instruction in a classroom, at home or virtually that day. If not physically at a school building, students who submit assignments or participate in assigned learning experiences by the deadline established by classroom policy should be considered present. CDA will make appropriate accommodations for students who may be required to quarantine or self-isolate as a result of COVID-19 by offering at home instruction. As long as quarantined students are able to participate in instruction, they will be counted as present.

**Worst-Case Scenario: Return to Shutdown**

In the event that COVID-19 cases become even more widespread, CDA in consultation with state and local health experts could determine that the system needs to shut down in-person instruction. Parents should expect more structured in person online instruction from their child’s teacher than was provided in the Spring, with scheduled classes throughout the morning. This would be a worst-case scenario, and more plans would be shared at that time.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child education and we look forward to a **safe** reopening for the 2020-2021 school year.