

STS Reimagined **Part I**

FALL 2020



Mission



St. Thomas School develops responsible citizens of a global society. In partnership with parents, we inspire and motivate intellectually curious students. Our small, nurturing environment supports the acquisition of a broad academic foundation with an emphasis on critical thinking, leadership skills, and the development of strong character and spiritual awareness.

Vision



A recognized leader in early childhood through 8th Grade education, St. Thomas School provides a journey defined by a cognitively rigorous program with an emphasis on developing character, leadership, and a passion for learning and achievement.

Background

"We remain committed to a rigorous academic program, the development of character and leadership, a strong and vibrant community, and the long-term sustainability and vitality of the School."

In early March, due to the coronavirus outbreak, St. Thomas School, along with schools in Washington state and across the nation, closed its campus and made a nearly instant shift to remote learning.

Throughout the past few months, the top priorities have been the well-being of faculty and staff, the delivery of remote academic and social-emotional programs, consistent and transparent communications, and continual feedback from and responses to parents concerns and ideas. This work has always been in keeping with the School's "Three Cs: Curriculum, Character, and Community."

We are immensely grateful to our faculty and staff who were immersed in edgework as they launched new tools and pedagogies, and demonstrated tremendous courage to take risks and seek feedback. In addition, the extraordinary commitment of STS families, their willingness to adapt to a new reality, and their good will toward the school and each other, underscores the strength of the STS community.

As we plan for the 2020-21 school year, we believe our nearly 70 years of experience and success in meeting challenges will serve STS well. The safety and well-being – physical, intellectual, social, and emotional – of our current faculty, staff, students, and families remain our top priority. We are anchored by our mission, vision, guiding principles, and core virtues. We remain committed to a rigorous academic program, the development of character and leadership, a strong and vibrant community, and the long-term sustainability and vitality of the School.

Cornerstones



The following cornerstones guided decision-making in developing *STS Reimagined*.

- Protect and promote the health and well-being – physical, intellectual, social, and emotional – of our students, faculty, staff, and families.
- Stay true to our mission, vision, guiding principles, and core virtues.
- Continue to deliver a rigorous academic program that includes the development of character and leadership.
- Provide a full five-day a week program with as much on-campus instruction as possible for all students every day.
- Maintain the long-term sustainability and vitality of the School.

STS Reimagined

As we look ahead, there are many unknowns and circumstances beyond our control. To that end, we are prepared for three scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year:

On-Campus Learning: School building is open. Instruction and learning happen in person.

Remote Learning: School building is closed. Instruction and learning happen remotely.

Hybrid Learning: School building is open with restrictions. Instruction and learning happen through a combination of on-campus and remote.

Families can be assured that in each scenario we will deliver an outstanding, rigorous, five-day a week, academic program, while also providing a strong character and social-emotional learning experience. We will continue to advance students through the curriculum, reinforcing new concepts and skills. We are prepared to pivot between models as required by government and health officials, or as circumstances specific to our community arise, so that student learning continues without interruption.

We intend to begin the school year in a hybrid learning model. This document, *STS Reimagined Part I*, will provide families with an overview of the hybrid learning model and weekly schedule. Part II of *STS Reimagined* will be published in August and will include detailed hybrid and remote learning plans for each division.

Finally, families not yet ready to return to on-campus learning may opt for the full remote learning program. Please contact your Division Director and look for more information in Part II of *STS Reimagined*.

Safety Protocols

The Return to Campus plan takes into consideration requirements and guidance from local and national public health officials, as well as the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). As of the date of this document, regulations include:



FACE COVERING*

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to wear a face covering throughout the day.



HYGIENE

Hand washing and sanitizing will be required multiple times each day.



SCREENING

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be screened for signs of illness each day upon entry.



CLEANING

Follow robust protocols for cleaning/sanitizing school facilities and materials.



DISTANCING

Practice physical distancing in classrooms and other common areas, and during activities.

**We encourage you to purchase and have your child(ren) get used to wearing masks prior to the start of the school year. This includes wearing a mask while playing or exercising.*


























Hybrid Schedule Overview

- As of the date of this document, it is the School's **intention** for all divisions (with the exception of the ELC's 2-Day Preschool and 3-Day Preschool classes) to begin the year in a **hybrid learning model**.*
- The 2-Day Preschool and 3-Day** Preschool classes will operate entirely on-campus.
- 5-Day** Preschool and PreKindergarten** classes will have four days of on-campus learning and one day of remote learning.
- Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 will have four days of on-campus learning and one day of remote learning.
- Grades 5-8 will have three days of on-campus learning and two days of remote learning.
- On-campus days will be regular school hours (8:15 a.m. – 3:20 p.m. for K-8, 8:15 a.m. – 12 noon for Preschool and PreKindergarten).

*Families not yet ready to return to on-campus learning may elect for a full remote learning program.

Optional afternoon enrichment classes will be available for 3-Day Preschool, 5-Day Preschool, and PreKindergarten students. These classes are not part of the curriculum. **They are designed for those families who need a full day.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
ELC					
2-DAY PRESCHOOL		×	×	×	
3-DAY PRESCHOOL	×				×
5-DAY PRESCHOOL PRE-KINDERGARTEN KINDERGARTEN					
EC					
GRADES 1-4					
MS					
GRADES 5-8 COHORT A					
GRADES 5-8 COHORT B					



ON-CAMPUS
LEARNING DAY



REMOTE
LEARNING DAY



NOT A REGULAR
CLASS DAY

Student Life

- Cohorts will be used to keep students a bit more isolated from each other and reduce exposure for teachers and staff.
- Students will have recess with physical distancing protocols.
- SAGE lunch will be provided in classrooms.
- PE classes will be held outdoors.
- There will be no before or after school extended day or Falcon's Ledge.

Important Dates

Thursday, July 15: STS Reimagined Part I; Coffee with Kirk Town Hall

Tuesday, August 4: STS Reimagined Part II

Thursday, August 6: Coffee with Kirk Town Hall

Thursday, August 27: Coffee with Kirk Town Hall

Tuesday, September 8: First day of school

STS Reimagined Part II

Part II of STS Reimagined will cover the following:

- Detailed hybrid and remote learning plans for each division
- Physical distancing protocols for classrooms, pick-up/drop-off, recess, and other activities.
- Orientation, classroom visits, meet the teacher, and other back to school activities.