



MARY HELP of CHRISTIANS ACADEMY

Educating and Empowering Young Women Since 1941

MHC SCHOOL REOPENING FAQs

Mary Help of Christians Academy will continue to follow State and Health Department mandates and guidelines. As requirements change and develop, we will communicate those changes as soon as possible through emails, texts and our FACTS Family Portal.

If you have not done so already, please complete the questionnaire regarding your intention to have your daughter return to school in-person or distance learning for Quarter One: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z5WQWX5>

1. WHAT SUPPLIES WILL I NEED FOR SCHOOL THIS YEAR?

Students will be provided with eBooks or PDFs for class textbooks when available. If they are not available, a textbook that has been sterilized will be given to students and that textbook will remain at home to be used for homework and as a reference. We recommend that students purchase two binders: one for Monday/Thursday and one for Tuesday/Friday. In that way, students will only need to bring their iPad and one binder for school each day which will minimize contact of books and large bags. We will be keeping paper handouts to a minimum and replacing paper with digital documents. If your teacher requires any special implements or supplies, you will be notified via email as to what will be required for that class.

2. WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE?

If a student or staff member tests positive, the students who have been in class with that teacher are notified and will move to distance learning for 14 days. Staff members and students that are sick will not be permitted to return to school until they are healthy and can provide proof of a negative test. We want to minimize the spread of infection. We will continue to follow the guidelines put forth by our partners at the health department.

3. WILL PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT BE PROVIDED FOR STUDENTS? STAFF?

MHC Academy has purchased masks, face shields, thermometers, gloves, hand sanitizer and cleaning products to help maintain a safe environment and prepare for the return to school. We'll make sure everyone receives Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), based on key information like the number of students per class, the number of desks per room, and other details. We will continue to monitor throughout the year to ensure that we have what we need to maintain a safe environment. Although we are giving students a fabric mask, students will need to have several masks so they can bring a clean one to school each day. Students who do not have a mask will be given a disposable one for the day. The

price of this mask is \$0.35. This will cover the cost of the mask based on the price paid by the school so that we can purchase additional masks, as needed.

4. **WILL FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS BE REQUIRED?**

All adults and students are required to wear masks or face shields when on school grounds, with the exception of time for eating, other designated "mask breaks" that would take place outside, and during physical education and music classes when students are in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance. Masks will also be required for students riding the our school bus while participating in our sports program.

5. **HOW WILL PHYSICAL DISTANCING BE MONITORED?**

Students and staff will maintain six feet of physical distancing in indoor and outdoor settings as much as possible. To support physical distancing efforts, we will have one direction hallways and stairwells, hallway monitoring, monitored bathrooms and afternoon dismissal. We will clearly mark off six-foot spaces for specific areas, such as bathroom lines, lunch pick-up, or school pick-up/drop-off locations. Hallways, bathrooms and arrival/dismissal will be monitored by faculty and staff.

6. **WILL EVERYONE BE REQUIRED TO WEAR GLOVES?**

Teachers and other staff will not be asked to wear gloves. The school nurse will be wearing gloves and a disposable gown. Cleaning and kitchen staff will be asked to wear gloves based on health guidelines.

7. **HOW WILL PHYSICAL DISTANCING BE ENFORCED IN CLASSROOMS?**

Classrooms will be set up to follow the health and safety guidelines. Classroom seating will be arranged to maximize distancing between students as much as possible. Desks will be rearranged so that students are all facing the same direction and community desks will be removed.

8. **WHAT WILL THE DAILY SYMPTOM SCREEN PROCESS LOOK LIKE?**

All adults and students will get a temperature check before entering the building. A Symptom Screening Checklist will be completed each day at home before arriving at school. Students/staff with a temperature of 100° or above will not be able to stay at school. Students and staff should stay home if they are known to be ill (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, abdominal pain, fatigue, muscle aches, headache). In addition, parents will complete the MHC Academy Google Absentee Form, and your daughter will be able to use distance learning Options.

9. **WHAT IF A STUDENT, TEACHER, OR STAFF MEMBER HAS A FAMILY MEMBER AT HOME WITH COVID-19?**

Anyone who has had direct, close contact with an infected person must be quarantined for 14 days.

10. **WILL STUDENTS WHO HAVE A MEDICAL REASON TO NOT WEAR A MASK STILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR ONE?**

Students who have medical exemptions regarding facial coverings will need to follow Health Department guidelines. As of August 8, 2020, all students must wear masks while at school. If they cannot due to a medical exemption, they will need to distance learn until that rule is lifted.

11. **HOW WILL WE KEEP THE BUILDINGS CLEAN AND SANITIZED?**

Teachers and staff will be supplied with sanitizing wipes to assist in preparing and disinfecting classrooms and work stations during the day. Each classroom will have a sanitizer dispenser. Facilities staff will clean and disinfect nightly using proven cleansers and UV-C lighting in each classroom. Staff will frequently clean high-touch surfaces in school daily and between use as much as possible.

12. **MHC ACADEMY HYBRID SCHEDULE for ALL STUDENTS: IN-PERSON AND DISTANCE LEARNERS**

On Campus Days - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

<u>Times</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
7:40 - 8:50	3	7	4	8
8:55 - 10:05	2	8	1	7
10:05 - 10:20	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:20 - 11:30	1	5	2	6
11:35 - 12:45	4	6	3	5

Distance Learning Day - Wednesday

<u>Times</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
8:00 - 8:55	1 or 5
9:00 - 9:55	2 or 6
9:55 - 10:10	Break
10:10 - 11:05	3 or 7
11:10 - 12:05	4 or 8

13. **ARE FAMILIES REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT?**

In the interest of public health, it is helpful to know how to keep the school community safe so that people who were exposed to a known positive case can quarantine and prevent the spread of this disease to others.

14. **HOW SHOULD STUDENTS PREPARE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR DANCE CLASS?**

Physical Education or Dance classes will happen outside, whenever possible. Students will be required to wear masks and will be provided with mask breaks. Hand sanitizing will be conducted frequently within the class period. Locker Rooms will be closed. Students will be required to wear the required clothing to school on the days that physical education or dance is scheduled.

15. **WHAT PROTOCOLS WILL BE IN PLACE TO TRACE POTENTIAL INFECTIONS?**

MHC Academy works closely with the Department of Public Health and Safety and has a process in place for reporting infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, and will continue to work with those in the health department so that the health department can contact trace, as needed, to help ensure the health and safety of our staff and students are maintained.

16. **WILL VISITORS BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING?**

Visitors, including parents/guardians, are not allowed past the school's front office and must have a symptom and temperature screening before they enter the building.

17. **HAS MHC ACADEMY CONSIDERED OUTDOOR INSTRUCTION TO MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?**

Teachers will be encouraged to consider holding classes and meetings outdoors, depending on weather and individual plans. Physical Education or Dance will take place outside, whenever possible. Snacks may also be eaten outside. MHC Academy is adding outdoor seating for students and faculty to use as needed when the weather permits.

18. **WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS?**

We are working with local and state health experts to develop a plan for sports and athletics. Athletic training will resume but will remain socially-distanced and with health checks.

19. **IF WE CHOOSE DISTANCE LEARNING, CAN WE CHANGE OUR MINDS LATER?**

We know that some families will not be comfortable sending their daughter back for in-person instruction and some staff members who have high-risk health conditions may not be able to work in person. To address this concern, we will offer a full-time distance learning option. The Distance Learning option will require students and teachers to attend regularly scheduled classes following our bell-schedule while at home to maintain connectivity. All work will carry the same expectation. Communication between students and their teachers is essential for effective learning to take place. If a student selects distance learning for quarter one, she cannot change mid-quarter but will be able to change her learning preference for the next quarter. A notification will be sent prior to the beginning of a new quarter to address a status change.

20. **HOW WILL STUDENTS WITH ISPs BE SUPPORTED IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING OPTION?**

Just as Bergen County Special Services (BCSS) provides in-class support throughout the day while school is in session on campus, students participating in the distance learning option will be scheduled to meet virtually with their teachers to provide support.

21. **WILL THERE BE A SPECIFIC PLACE AT SCHOOL TO ISOLATE STUDENTS OR STAFF WHO SHOW SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?**

We have designated two rooms - one in Sacred Heart Hall and one in Auxilium Hall - where persons with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated from other students and staff while they wait to be picked up from school. The Nurse's Office will only handle routine medical needs as has been done in the past.

22. **IF A PARENT OPTS-OUT OF SENDING THEIR DAUGHTER TO SCHOOL, CAN SHE STILL PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS OR OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?**

Yes. Students may still participate in sports and extra-curricular activities if they are utilizing the full-time distance learning option, if such sports and extra-curricular activities are otherwise permitted.