

Hello, Crusader Families!

I would like to formally introduce myself as the new Administrator at Bethesda Christian Academy. I am excited to work with the amazing staff we have here, and I am ready to meet each one of you in the coming days and weeks. I pray that you and your families are doing well and resting in God's comfort right now. This pandemic has brought many uncertainties into our lives, but it is not too much for God to carry us through.

This year our theme is **"It's All About HIM,"** and I hope that is our never-ending focus in our lives. Through much prayer, review of information, and consultation, we have decided to open school full-time beginning on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. The intent of this letter is to share the plan we have for a safe and blessed school year. Please understand many of the logistics are still not finalized, but we are working through these every day. Please know that the health and safety of our staff, students, and visitors on campus is a priority.

BCA has developed a plan based on the current state of the pandemic in our area. Right now coronavirus transmission is still occurring, and we are implementing procedures that must be followed. These plans can be altered at any time depending on directives from the state or cases determined in our school. We will communicate as much as we can to keep each family informed.

Our teachers will be working this year to provide hybrid instruction. All students are expected to be on campus and in class for learning, but we realize there may be times that students and families may need to be out due to sickness or exposure. For this reason, teachers will work to provide some teaching using digital means for better access away from school. Attending school in person is expected as much as possible. Temporary remote learning must be approved by the administrative staff at BCA. Remote learning will require a daily attendance and a daily work aspect.

We are asking each family to partner with BCA in supporting the health and wellness of all people that attend. This is critical to maintaining adequate staff at the school and ensuring school closure does not have to occur. We ask families to commit to keep their student(s) at home when they are not feeling well, experiencing COVID-like symptoms, or have been potentially exposed. We also ask that each family communicate this with the administrative team at BCA.

Daily routines will be different this year at BCA.

- All staff and students will be required to enter the building by the front main door. The only exception will be Kindergarten students- they will be able to be screened and enter through their class playground doors. When each person (staff, student, or others) enters the building they will have their temperature taken and may be asked questions to determine possible COVID infection.
- Any person that has an elevated temperature (100.4 F or higher) or COVID symptoms should stay home.
- If a person has any COVID symptom, he/she will be quarantined until the family can be contacted to pick them up.
- **All staff and students in all grades are required** to wear a mask the entire school day unless they have a written exception from a medical provider provided to administration. Every person is encouraged to wear a face covering for the entire day of school.
- Each family is encouraged to work with students at home now to get students used to wearing a face covering.

BCA will continue to partner with families and churches in the spiritual growth and emotional health of our students. If your family has a need, please communicate that with our administrative team.

Facility Cleaning – BCA will increase daily disinfection and sanitization throughout campus. Classrooms will be disinfected and sanitized every evening.

- Student movement and material sharing will be minimized.
- Elementary students will be in self-contained classrooms for learning and lunch.
- Enhanced procedures will be put in place for hallway travel and bathroom visits.
- Playgrounds will be sprayed multiple times each day before groups will be able to play.

Hand Sanitizer / Washing – BCA will provide hand sanitizer stations to be used by staff and students. Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the school day.

Social Distancing – BCA will encourage/require social distancing, whenever possible. Social distancing signage will be posted throughout campus as reminders to stay 6 feet apart. All desks are at least 3 feet apart with classes held outside and in larger areas when possible.

Large Gatherings – Large gatherings will be limited and procedures with rotations are being developed in limited capacity. This includes areas like the cafeteria, playgrounds, and library.

Visitors on Campus – BCA will limit on-campus visitors/guests to only those deemed essential.

- Facial coverings will be required for all essential visitors/guests while on campus
- In addition to the normal sign-in, a temperature check and symptom screening will be required.

Afterschool care – Afterschool care will resume with the new school year, but after school care activities will be modified to follow health and safety protocols.

Athletics – BCA desires to resume athletic competition this fall. However, these activities are still being finalized.

Please understand that we have not made this decision lightly. We have taken the most consideration for you and your family health during this time. We are praying these enhancements to the school day will keep everyone safe and allow our staff and students the ability to build relationships that last a lifetime. BCA is excited to start the school year again in the classroom. Please join us in prayer that God will continue to protect and bless BCA this year.

Together in Christ,

Joey Johnson, BCA Administrator