

NEW HEBRON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

10755 E. 700th Avenue, Robinson, Illinois 62454

Phone (618) 544-7619♦♦♦Fax (618) 544-4493

www.nhcseagles.com

nhcs@mchsi.com

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support and patience as we have navigated school closure, distance learning and the uncertainty of preparing for our 2020-21 school year. We have persevered together and seek to carry that spirit on as we enter the new school year on August 31, 2020. Our theme for the year reflects that sentiment:

We stick TOGETHER! “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24

We have determined our procedures for reopening school with health, safety and school continuity as our priorities. Please help us implement these procedures by **reading our guidelines below** and by following the **daily health checklist** to monitor your student’s health before sending them to school. We will screen temperatures as students/staff enter. Anyone with a temperature about 100.4° will need to return home and monitor symptoms. Your vigilance in monitoring your own child’s health will be very helpful in keeping our student community safe. *The checklist is attached to this document.*

NHCS Guidelines for Return-To-School 2020-21:

Use of Personal Protective Equipment:

Face coverings/masks are required except when we can socially distance. In the classroom, the mask may be removed as long as students are spread out 6 feet. Facemasks are required in group settings such as the gym, chapel or passing in hallways unless our strategies spread students out or provide one-way traffic. Please be prepared by entering the building with a mask. This mask may be removed when the student is seated in their classroom or out at recess. An extra mask in the backpack is also recommended and washable masks should be laundered daily. At dismissal, students must wear their mask in the gym while waiting for pickup. **No student or staff will be criticized for their choice to wear a mask or face covering.

Procedures to provide added safety for students & staff:

Extra handwashing breaks (after entering the building, after recess, before lunch/snack, etc.

Hand sanitizer available to all students.

Water fountains are closed. Students should bring a filled water bottle from home. It can be refilled by the teacher or water purchased from the school store.

Office is closed to students except for an emergency issue such as illness or injury. There will be a service window so students can pick up items from the school store, make payments, etc.

Students will not share group supplies (markers, glue, etc.). Each student will have a pencil bag/box with their own supplies.

Students will socially distance at lunch and provide their own condiments. Paper products and silverware will be dispensed by the teacher (wearing gloves). Spacing and distancing will be observed using the microwaves.

Students will be spread out more fully on the playground and equipment. Masks are not worn at recess.

Classes (grades 4-8) that move room to room are following a block schedule to allow for sanitizing after a group leaves and before the next group arrives.

Classroom and building surfaces will be sanitized daily when students/staff have left the building. Playground equipment will be sanitized daily after the noon recess.

Following social distancing guidelines:

Our classroom numbers are <15 per room and our room sizes are large. Seating is being arranged with 6 foot spacing between students.

Chapel will be modified with a rotation plan: half the students attending in person, spread out fully on the gym floor and the other half viewing the service in their classrooms.

The art activities will be conducted in the classroom. Music class will be held in the gym and masks will be required due to concern of spreading droplets while singing. Classroom teachers will be responsible for a weekly PE activity.

Please drop off your student within 10 minutes of the start time to minimize wait time in the gym or classroom. Grades Pre-K through 3 begin at 8:30 am, grades 4-8 begin at 8:15 am. If it is not possible to delay your drop off, your student will be waiting in the gym or classroom with social distancing.

Activities, Field Trips, Visitor Policies:

Due to the 50 person limitation on events, our fall activities (open house, fall festival) may be held virtually or modified.

Field trips are suspended at this time.

We want to minimize visitor contact in the building. If you need to enter, you must wear a mask, wash your hands upon entering, and conduct your business at the office. If you are dropping off or picking up your student, please do so from your vehicle. You are always welcome to call the office with questions or to leave a message. Payments and form drop off or requests can always be delivered by your student.

Cross country was canceled by the IESA for the fall season but not SIJHSSA. We are checking on meets we can participate in.

Basketball and cheer practice will not begin until after October 1, 2020. Guidelines will be given when we are closer to that date.

Scholastic Bowl practice begins after Christmas and guidelines will be given when we are closer to that date.

Spring track is planned, pending scheduling with area schools.

Student Health Protocols:

*Please be aware, coronavirus is still present in our population and it could become necessary for school to close for a 2 week interval (minimum). If that occurs, the school will switch to distance learning for the interim. We may also adjust the school calendar if community spread is on the rise and extend a scheduled holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.) to allow for the case count to drop.

**If a student is positive for COVID-19, they will need to quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days and a minimum of 3 days fever free without taking any fever reducing agent. If there has been significant exposure in the classroom, the class may be closed down for the quarantine period. At that time, if the class is closed, the teacher will switch to distance learning. You will be notified if your child has come in direct physical contact or close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

When school is in session, if you choose to keep your student home to minimize their risk, our teachers can provide assignments and textbooks in the same way we would if your student was home sick or on a vacation. If the school is closed for a 2 week interval or more, we will switch to our distance learning strategies (including Zoom conferencing, Google classroom, instructional videos, and live instruction via Zoom or Google Meets). **With our limitations of staff and resources, we cannot provide both in-class instruction and distance learning at the same time when school is in session. Grading will be standardized and continuous for in-class and distance learning according to our grading scale. There will not be a minimum grade threshold if we must switch from in-class to distance learning. Assignments will be due as scheduled with extensions only given if the student is sick.

Thank you for your close attention to the procedures we are prioritizing due to the coronavirus pandemic. We greatly appreciate your patience as we have taken the time needed to develop our strategies. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me through email or phone. If additional information becomes available that modifies our plan, we will communicate with you. Thank you for choosing New Hebron Christian School. We highly value our students, staff and families.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Wassel, Principal

Daily Health Self-Checklist for NHCS Students and Staff

***Your answer to each of the following questions should be “no” to attend school.**

1. Do you have a fever of 100 degrees or more?
2. Are you experiencing a new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea?
3. Are you experiencing **two or more** of the following symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
4. Are you experiencing ANY of the Emergency Warning Symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Shortness of breath
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
5. Have you been around a person with an active case of COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks?
6. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and you are still within the 10 day quarantine period?