



# WASATCH

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

August 13, 2020

Dear Wasatch Christian families,

We are writing after *many* conversations with Child Care Licensing, Care About Childcare, the Utah Afterschool Network, United Way, Boys & Girls Club, local public school and private school administrators and our Wasatch Christian teaching team and families.

**As everyone attempts to determine how to best prepare for the academic year, here are some items to keep in mind:**

- Children appear to be at lower risk for contracting COVID-19 compared to adults. Adolescents aged 10-17 may be more likely to become infected than children younger than 10; however, they do not seem to be at higher risk of getting severe illness from the virus. A report on KUTV News on 7/30 stated that the odds of dying from COVID-19 for those under 18 are one in a million, whereas dying from the Flu Virus is almost 15 times greater.
- We have been providing care for all ages of students all summer without any incident, while following and exceeding Utah's Child Care Licensing Emergency Guidelines.
- We have also made a decision to suspend our before/after care program for local public school students because we don't want to risk them bringing back the virus from multiple public schools and infecting our students.
- Our school has long been considered one of the cleanest and safest in the state by licensing officials and local leaders. We owe it all to our building manager and custodian, Ernesto! He has always cleaned high frequency touch points, including bathrooms and drinking fountains, multiple times every day utilizing the proper cleaning products.
- Each of our classrooms are 950 Square Feet, and are limited to twenty students. We have also installed a GPS Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization system that kills all known viruses, including COVID-19. We are not aware of any other school or child care in the State of Utah with this technology.
- Our goal is to STAY OPEN, BE SAFE, and PROTECT NURSERY KIDS, STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS 100% of the time! We are doing everything possible on our end, but ultimately the best way to accomplish this is for our entire Wasatch Christian community to practice individual responsibility.

**Our *regular practices* in all classrooms are more stringent than some of the new state or CDC requirements.**

- We have lunch in our classrooms, rather than coming together in a big lunchroom.
- We wash hands before and after meals and after coming in from outside.
- We limit the mixing of children and teachers from different classes.
- We separately store each child's nap time bedding and require it to be washed regularly; we space out children during nap time and place them head to toe in order to further reduce the spread of germs.
- We use the recommended bleach solution in our regular cleaning practices.
- All personnel who handle food have food handler permits in our State of Utah licensed kitchen. During the shutdown, we even made additional improvements to the kitchen making it easier to clean walls and floors.
- After being sick, we require students to be fever free without medication for 24-hours before returning to school. We also prohibit parents from masking symptoms, like by giving children Tylenol before they arrive.
- Students who become sick while at school are isolated from everyone else, until their family can come get them.
- We are intent on building relationships with each student and family, and practice constant communication through Brightwheel and special events like Back to School Night, Family Conferences, etc.
- We have a strong focus in our elementary program on math and reading; these building blocks mean our students are better prepared to catch up after perhaps getting behind or forgetting what they learned over the summer.

**Since May, we have been practicing (and will continue to practice) the following:**

- We are not using toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized promptly.
- We have modified drop off and pick up procedures, including adding a daily health check upon arrival for all students, staff, and families who would like to enter beyond the office. These individuals must also wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before passing by the office.
- We have provided staff with cloth face masks, provided them with flexible schedules and time off, and adopted a non-punitive "emergency sick leave" policy, which means they are more likely to stay home if they do not feel well.

**Additional Academic Year practices will include:**

- More frequent hand-washing and the cleaning of common equipment or surfaces, especially after group activities.
- Making hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and soap and water readily available.
- Creating cohorts for our weekly Chapel services, which limit interaction between classes, and holding them outdoors, weather permitting.
- Assigning bathrooms and staggering playground and lunch time, to limit interaction between classes and different ages of students.
- Disinfecting recess equipment between uses.

- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces multiple times daily (doorknobs, desks, computers, shared items).
- Practicing physical distancing, when possible.
- Providing additional tutoring services and increased support for families who need access to social services.
- Increasing additional outdoor activities, weather permitting, and assigning seats on our school buses.

### **So what about face masks?**

As of right now, according to the Utah State Public Health Order, we must require face coverings for teachers and students in our K-12th grade program. Please see the order for exceptions based on individual circumstances and certain activities.

Through CARES Act funding, we have plenty of face shields and face masks for all students and teachers, if needed. Teachers, students, and visitors may also provide their own. Mask breaks will occur throughout the day. Breaks will occur when students can be six feet apart and outside or when standing next to an open window.

Each day, students will drop them in an assigned bucket as they exit the building, and we will steam clean them and place them in their assigned page protector in their class binder. This is where they will find them to put on upon entry each morning. Students will also be reminded not to touch their faces and to wash their hands frequently.

### **What we will do if a student or team member test positive for COVID-19?**

- We will communicate with you promptly and follow the recommended guidance from the Weber-Morgan Health Department.
- We will encourage this person to follow recommendations set forth by their healthcare provider.
- We will require that they isolate until their symptoms get better, and ensure they are fever-free for 24 hours without medicine. In most cases, we will ask that they be retested and show a negative response.
- We will recommend students and teachers who have had close, sustained contact get tested for COVID19.

### **What you can do:**

Simple things like consistent hand-washing, staying home when sick, wearing facial coverings in public, standing at a distance, and limiting close interactions are our community's best defense against the virus. As we think about the school year, we ask the following of your families:

- Re-establish daily routines for the school year (bedtime, homework schedule, reading at home, etc.), and don't forget to take care of yourselves (get sleep, eat well, drink water, be active)!
- Reinforce proper hand washing techniques.
- Reinforce the importance of respecting the teachers who care deeply about your students.
- Be an active participant in your child's education. If you decide to keep your child home at any point, please communicate with their teacher via Brightwheel to coordinate homework.

- Monitor your student's temperature and symptoms (fever, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, severe headache). If your child isn't feeling well, please keep him or her home. If students arrive with these symptoms, they will be sent home.
- Include in your child's health assessment form, if your child has any medical conditions that would cause any of the above symptoms. We must have these symptoms documented in your child's file such as allergies or asthma.
- Let us know if your student has a health condition that puts them at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

As you read over this, please let us know if you have any ideas or would like to discuss this in more detail.

Together with the Board of Directors and Teaching Team,

Amanda Gagstein, Director

Catherine Tobey, Administrator

## **LIABILITY RELEASE WAIVER**

The World Health Organization has declared the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a worldwide pandemic. Due to its capacity to transmit from person-to-person through respiratory droplets, the Utah State Office of Child Care and the Utah State Health Order have set emergency protocols which Wasatch Christian School adheres to according to our child care licensure and operation as a private school.

In consideration of our family's participation, the undersigned acknowledge and agree to the following:

My family is aware of the existence of the risks involved in enrolling our children at Wasatch Christian School, and that our participation may cause injury or illness such as, but not limited to, Influenza, MRSA, or COVID-19 that may lead to suffering or death. We agree to not come to school grounds if we are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 or have tested positive for it recently. We commit to being in prompt communication with WCS about a positive COVID-19 case in our household or a known, sustained contact with someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19. We will also be cautious in returning to school if we have recently travelled to an area highly affected by COVID-19. We understand WCS' current plan regarding the pandemic and will graciously work with the WCS team to abide by it and any changes it may include in the future, at Wasatch Christian School's sole discretion.

Following the pronouncements above I hereby declare the following:

We are fully and personally responsible for our family's health and safety and recognize that participation in child care, education, and activities at WCS have an inherent risk of contracting COVID-19. With full knowledge of the risks involved, we hereby release, waive, discharge, and agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless, Wasatch Christian School, its board, officers, independent contractors, affiliates, employees, representatives, successors, and assigns from any and all liabilities,

claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, directly or indirectly arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death, that may be sustained by us related to COVID-19 while participating in any activity while in, on, or around the premises, or on school-sponsored field trips, that may lead to unintentional exposure or harm due to COVID-19.

By signing below I acknowledge that I hereby release Wasatch Christian School from all Liability as it relates to COVID-19. I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Wasatch Christian School from and against any and all cost, expenses, damages, lawsuits, and/or liabilities or claims arising whether directly or indirectly from or related to any and all claims made by or against any of the released party due to injury, loss, or death from or related to COVID-19

I have read the foregoing Liability Release Waiver and understand its contents; that I am at least eighteen years old and fully competent to give consent for myself and my family; that I have been sufficiently informed of the risks involved and give my voluntary consent in signing it as my own free act and deed; that I give my voluntary consent in signing this Liability Release Waiver as my own free act and deed with full intention to be bound by the same, and free from any inducement or representation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### UOS Enrollment

We have partnered with Utah Online School to provide a variety of learning opportunities to our Pre-K-12 students. These are supplemental in our elementary program, including programs like Moby Max, Rosetta Stone, and Typing Agent. However, the secondary students' core curriculum will be provided by UOS. In either case, in order for your child to participate, we will enroll them as a "part time" student with UOS. There is no cost to this, but we will need to send copies of your child's birth certificate and immunization records (or exemption letter). By signing below, you give your permission for us to enroll your children in UOS courses for the 2020-2021 school year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### NAMES OF Pre-K-12 CHILDREN ATTENDING WASATCH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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