

## **Health and Safety Plan Draft for Reopening School for 2020-21**

*With protocols for mitigating the risk of coronavirus exposure during the yellow and green phases of reopening.*

Key goals of our planning for 2020-21: As a Waldorf school we are committed to providing a holistic and developmentally appropriate education for our students in the place and time that we find ourselves living. This is part of what makes Waldorf education unique. We also must respond to the current world situation with Covid-19 and take reasonable and responsible steps to mitigate risk and to protect our students and employees. Our goal is that any steps we take to mitigate risk are feasible and will be in balance with our educational ideals.

Decision making process: The Governing Team and the Core Teams make up the Covid-19 task force or pandemic team, and are responsible for guiding a decision making process that has included input from the faculty, staff, and parents. The faculty and staff have participated in the planning process through many meetings and through written feedback and surveys. The parent body has participated in a survey, and many have offered observations to the Governing Team as individuals and as groups from a variety of points of view. The Board of Trustees have been kept in the loop on the planning process. We also have sought out expertise from some members of our parent community in areas pertinent to our planning. We have also referred to the state's guidelines for the reopening of schools that provided a template for schools in their planning, as well as recommendations and guidelines from other public health organizations. This draft plan will be shared with the faculty and staff, Board, and parents. Responses will be taken into consideration and the Governing Team and the Core teams will make revisions as indicated and send to the Board of Trustees for approval (as the governing body ultimately responsible for the legal and financial health of the school). We anticipate the situation around Covid-19 to evolve and change and The Governing and Core Teams will make adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan in consultation with the stakeholders mentioned above as indicated.

The following is the framework of our reopening plan. There is no one single protocol that is the focus of the plan but rather a combination of steps. It provides guidance on how the school will take steps to mitigate risk of transmission of Covid-19 in keeping with our key planning goals. It is not intended to provide every detail but to provide an overview of the protocols that we will follow. The development of those details are the work of the faculty and staff with the Governing Team and Core Teams. The stakeholders mentioned above and people with additional expertise on the matter will be involved as indicated. We will continue to be flexible and adjust our planning as needed.

Note: Each of the following protocols are for both the yellow and green phases unless otherwise indicated.

*Physical spacing in classrooms and other learning spaces: We have decided to include some protocols for physical distancing in this plan. We understand that it is unrealistic to expect children of any age to be able to practice physical spacing at all times and in all situations. We also understand that guidelines for physical spacing need to take into account the developmental stage of the students. There are some reasonable spacing protocols that we will use that we have listed below, and due to the limitations of physical spacing we are also focusing on steps to reduce mixing between grades which are listed in the next section. Faculty have been discussing ways in which this physical spacing can be achieved through adjustments in both where and when children use communal spaces.*

- Our plan is to spread out desks and chairs to provide spacing between seats to the maximum extent feasible in the yellow phase and as appropriate in the green phase. Desks will also be faced in the same direction. The extent to which we can do this will depend on class sizes, but we anticipate that it will be fairly easy to maintain recommended spacing with the enrollment size of most of our classes. Early childhood classes will not be following physical spacing in classrooms as this is not feasible for our program and the age of the student.
- We will limit gatherings of students for classes or extra-curricular activities to 25.
- We will work with CDC guidelines for youth sports for our PE and athletics program to allow for physical spacing and to reduce sharing of equipment as feasible.
- Special attention will be given to the role that choral music and the playing of wind instruments will have this coming school year to mitigate potential spread of the virus.
- We will plan for ways to provide more spacing for eurythmy classes as feasible and appropriate.
- Students will not share supplies as feasible. Each student will use their own writing or drawing implements, scissors, musical instrument, etc.
- We will make plans to control the flow of movement through hallways between classes and to limit the amount of students leaving classes at a time to use bathrooms.
- We will be planning the use of cubbies and lockers to maintain physical spacing as feasible and appropriate.

*Limiting mixing between classes and reducing the amount of shared spaces the classes use:*

- Classes will have most of their classes in their homeroom.
- Subject teachers will travel to classes as much as is feasible rather than classes traveling to them.
- In Early Childhood classes will take steps to reduce mixing between classes as much as possible.
- Classes will enter their buildings through different entrances as much as is feasible.
- Students will be in a pod with their own classmates, and we will work to reduce mixing of classes. There are times during the day when two classes may be in spaces near each other.
- To the extent feasible we will assign separate bathrooms per class in our buildings where this can be done.
- We will plan to either stagger recesses or spread classes out over a larger recess area to reduce mixing of classes and keep to class pods.
- Some classes that in the past were a mixture of two or more grades may be changed to reduce mixing between grades or to provide physical spacing as feasible.
- We will make plans to reduce the number of students in hallways at a given time where feasible.
- Teachers will be encouraged to hold classes outdoors in good weather as feasible, particularly for activities like PE, singing, and circle activities. We are exploring options for shade-screens for a few outdoor spaces.
- Lunch for grades 1-12 will not be served in the cafeteria and classes will eat in their classrooms. The kitchen may provide boxed or bagged lunches or students will bring lunches from home. We may consider use of the cafeteria for lunch later in the year depending on circumstances. Food preparation in the early childhood programs will be adjusted so that children only participate in their own snack preparation and lunch preparation in pre-kindergarten will be carefully evaluated to determine the best practices.

*Other health and safety protocols to help mitigate the transmission of Covid-19:*

- Good hygiene (hand washing, proper covering of face when sneezing or coughing) will be taught and practiced throughout the day.
- Drinking fountains will not be used. Students will bring their own water bottles or cups in their classrooms.
- Bathrooms will be limited to one person at a time. Many classes will have a dedicated bathroom for their use and will not be sharing with other classes.
- When feasible, windows will be opened to improve ventilation.
- Health screenings: parents will be asked to screen their children daily for fevers and other symptoms and report student absences to the school as is our normal protocol. All faculty and staff are expected to do the same. Anyone with fever or symptoms typical of Covid-19 are required to stay home. The school will begin screening for temperature and symptoms if there is a need. See the school's Illness Monitoring Plan for details on screening and procedures related to student or employee illness.
- Students with symptoms of illness will be sent home. Parents will be informed by the office and will need to come immediately to pick their child up. Student will be kept separated from other students until parents have arrived.
- We are making arrangements for a nurse to be on campus for at least 2 hours each day
- Portable hand washing stations or drinking water dispensers are being purchased for classes without sinks nearby.
- No-touch soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers are being purchased for all bathrooms.
- High-use surfaces such as door-knobs, light switches, sink faucets and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily with non-toxic cleaners and disinfectants.
- Face-coverings (face-shields or masks) will be required of all faculty and staff and visitors per State of Pennsylvania order when indoors and in common areas shared with other people, and outdoors when physical spacing of six feet is not possible, unless the individual qualifies for a health related exemption as defined by the state

order. Faculty and staff may take off face coverings indoors when 6 feet of physical spacing can be maintained.

- Face-coverings (face-shields or masks) are required for students age 2 and up per State of Pennsylvania order, unless the student qualifies for a health related exemption as defined by the state order. Students must wear face coverings during transitions and any time that 6 feet of physical distancing can not be maintained. Student's may remove face coverings with teacher permission when 6 feet of physical distancing can be maintained (indoors or outdoors), for example when sitting at desks and seating is spaced 6 feet apart, when eating and spaced 6 feet apart, and other activities is spaced 6 feet apart.
- Entering buildings: classes will enter and exit buildings at assigned entrances to reduce mixing. In addition, all classes from early childhood through the 6th grade have their own outside entrance to their classrooms that can be used to create increased distances.
- Assemblies and other large gatherings will not happen in the yellow phase as there is a limit of gatherings of 25. In the green phase, we will consider the size for assemblies or other gatherings.
- No parents will be permitted in buildings without prior permission, including drop-off and pick up times.
- No volunteers or visitors will be permitted in buildings without prior permission with the goal of restricting the amount of visitors and volunteers on campus as feasible.
- Attendance procedures will be adjusted to support physical spacing.
- Protection of office staff: protocols will be in place to limit the flow of traffic in the front offices, admissions office, and business office.
- Physical spacing in faculty room lounge will be practiced to the maximum extent feasible.
- Travel restrictions may be in place for international exchange or international students. This will be handled on an individual basis (and in part depending on situation in other countries).
- We will consider physical spacing or face-coverings as feasible in transportation for trips.
- We will continue to monitor state and local public health authorities for guidance.

*Note on busing: At this point we do not know the busing plans of the districts that typically bus to KWS. They may be making plans for physical distancing that will impact the times that they are able to drop off or pick up students at KWS. We recommend that parents be exploring alternate transportation just in case.*

*We are considering ways to provide online or remote learning for students who may have to be off campus for longer periods of time in addition to typical steps we would take to provide students with homework assignments and other school work to keep up when out of school.*

*We are also making plans to continue with our remote Learning Beyond the Classroom program in the event that there is a resurgence in Covid-19 cases and schools are closed for a period of time.*

*Links:*

[\*Pennsylvania Department of Education Preliminary Guidance for Phased Opening of K-12 Schools.\*](#)

[\*Bucks County Department of Health, Guidance for Bucks County School Reopenings.\*](#)

[\*Owen J. Roberts School District Summer Program Health and Safety Program\*](#)