

PLAN FOR The King's School
PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION
K-12th grade BACK TO SCHOOL
2021-2022



Dear Parents and Guardians of our Beautiful Treasures,

LOOKING BACK over the past school year, all I can say is “God is SO good.” We have learned so much, especially how to retain our joy despite what surrounds us in this life. We were able to put James 1:12 into practice which says, “Blessed are those who endure when they are tested. When they pass the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”

We were open every single day of the school calendar, with only the upper grades needing two short weeks of at-home learning! Your students were overcomers and persevered under circumstances they have never encountered before. You, our families, were the most encouraging, supportive backbone of our school. Our staff were undaunted, holding fast to God’s promise for us as a school! Now we look forward with great anticipation for the continuity of God’s grace and protection as we face a new year! Blessings to you all. What a JOY to serve the Lord alongside your families! Mrs. Girling

- **This Year’s Goal** - Our goal for this year is to return to ‘normalcy’ as much as we are able. The following guidelines and plans are designed to mindfully bring us back into a more normal King’s school setting, while at the same time predict ahead and leave room for any possible guidelines the state may have for us concerning safety and health. You will notice changes that are closer to ‘back to normal’ in the plans below, while in other areas discussed, you will notice a more ‘hybrid’ plan to leave room for any needed adjustment.
- **Normal Length School Day Is Back** - We have decided to extend the school day back to a more normal length with arrival from 8:00-8:12 am, the school day officially beginning at 8:15 am, and dismissal from 2:30-2:42 pm.
- **Open House Is Back** - We are reinstating our Open House for our enrolled families two days before school on Tuesday, September 7th, 2021. We will be inviting families with the last names beginning with A-F on campus from 2-3 pm, families with last names beginning with G-M from 3:15-4:15 pm, and families with last names

beginning with N-Z from 4:30-5:30 pm. Open House checklists will be provided in the church sanctuary, where tables will be set up for sports, admin, 'specials' classes, medical, etc. Classrooms may be visited to drop off your supplies and connect with teachers.

- **Midterms & Finals Are Back** - King's midterms and finals will be reinstated this year. Teachers may announce a project or an alternate assessment model, as approved by administration, for these exams.
- **Strict 'Stay Home' Policy Remains For Students & Staff With Symptoms** - Home remains the first point of the screening process this year. If students or staff exhibit any of the flu-like symptoms, they are still required to stay at home. (A detailed communication outlining symptoms and screening will come from the Health Office later in the summer.) However, we are not providing a remote model of learning as a choice this year. All students who are NOT exhibiting flu-like symptoms need to be in-person at school. This year we will not be offering 'At Home Distance Learning' as a choice. Remote teaching and learning requires a significant increase in time and effort from both staff and students and has not proven to be the most optimal way to teach or to learn. However, if a student finds themselves at home with symptoms, they *may* have the opportunity to attend class remotely for a few days by communicating with their teachers, but all assessments will be taken in school.
- **Screening At Home Begins** - This year we are providing an AT HOME SCREENING tool online, in which you will be required daily to respond by answering brief questions before your students arrive at school. It should take just a few seconds to answer for each child. This will allow for elementary students to enter school and go straight to their classrooms and for 7th-12th graders to go straight to their lockers and then to Bible class with no arrival area necessary in the dining hall. Any student or family who has forgotten to log on and answer the brief questionnaire will do so during arrival time. Please create a new morning habit of doing this Screening AT HOME, in order to ensure students and staff are safe and healthy on campus. More details about our at-home screening will be provided before the start of the school year.
- **Hot Healthy Lunch Program Is Back** - Chef Blanchard will be serving homemade, hot healthy lunches this year on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays only. The online lunch program will be ready on our website to take your orders before the first week of school. We will be looking to serve pizza from Rocco's on Tuesdays and Thursdays, if possible. More details to follow.

- **Bussing** - Students may still be required to wear a face mask on their district school bus. Students, family members, or staff who are unvaccinated and are carpooling are also asked to wear their masks for the duration of their commute.
- **In the Event of COVID** - In keeping with cooperation, our health office will provide families with information on the procedure when a student in the same class as their own student is being tested for COVID-19 or has tested positive. The school, or part of the school, could be closed at any given time during the school year for decontamination purposes and to stop further spread, upon the advisement of our local health department. School, or a particular class, may be able to continue remotely for a short period of time so that the affected class has time for the germs to die out, time for disinfecting, and time for the local health department to advise.
- **Lockers and Cubbies Are Back** - Lockers and cubbies will be used again for students this year. We will continue to sanitize shared spaces throughout the school regularly during the school day.
- **Plexiglass Removed From Student Zones** - Because the nature of small class sizes at King's keeps students in a relatively small 'pod' in their classrooms, we have removed the individualized plexiglass compartments. We may use some of our plexiglass dividers in the dining room to keep classes separate during their lunchtime period.
- **Masks** - The King's School is committed to maintaining a mask-free learning environment for students, while still prioritizing student's mental and physical health. Our policies may change as New York State mandates change, but our hearts toward your students will not. Masks may be required for individuals as they enter the school premises. Once in their own classrooms, students and staff may be allowed to remove their masks. Whenever students or staff are moving from one location to another, a face mask may be required. Once seated or present with their own class, face masks may be removed.
- **Moving From Classroom To Classroom Is Back** - Whereas last year, in the height of the pandemic, we decided to keep students in their own classrooms, and teachers migrated from one room to the next. This year students will again commute when changing classes. Staff will be vigilant to wipe down and air out rooms during our daily Quick Cleans. Students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands and work space also. This also means that the art, music, and drama classes will use their own rooms, as students will be permitted to enter the space with their own class.

- **PE Classes Are Back** - PE for all age students is back this year; however, any 9th-12th grade student in a King's School after-school sport during that season does not need to attend gym class in order to receive credit. 9th-12th graders, who sign up for a King's after-school sport, must let their gym teacher know prior to the start of the sport's season whether or not they will attend gym during that season. 9th-12th grade students who are not playing sports must attend gym. Students may NOT decide from one day to next whether they will attend.
- **Hydration Station** - Please make sure your student has a water bottle to stay hydrated every day at school. As many of you know, last year we installed a hands-free water bottle filling station, so the bottle can be kept on-campus in the student's possession for the week.
- **Bathroom Use** - Students and staff will be trained to use facilities quickly and minimize time spent in bathrooms. Quick cleans of handles, faucets, and door knobs will still occur throughout the day.
- **Nursing Staff** - The nursing staff will resume their former location back over in the church building for this year. They will help with morning screenings and with making sure students are well and cared for at school. Please understand that it is still very important that students and staff have no flu-like symptoms in school and that they will be sent home if they develop any during the school day.
- **School Closings** - Notification of school closing will be provided for staff and families through the school website yellow 'alert banner,' local television stations, and the school's Facebook page.
- **Technology Update** - 5-12th graders will still be using personally-owned Chromebooks for access to the Google Suite, for some homework, and for some classwork. 2-4th graders will be able to use King's owned Chromebooks. However, we are mindfully returning to time in the classroom WITHOUT screens, in order to foster discussion, socialization, and healthier learning environments. We are returning to NO CELL PHONES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY (until dismissal) for all students.
- **Visitors On Campus For Special Events** - As the year progresses we may be able to create safe plans for all our upcoming events. But, as we are doing for our Open House, we may need to stagger the timing of arrivals and

departures of certain visitors, in order not to have too many congested areas. Unimmunized individuals may need to wear a mask to a school event, as advised in state guidelines.

- **Fairs and Events Are Back** - As the year progresses we may be able to create safe plans for all our upcoming events. We may be able to invite visitors back on campus, but as we are doing for our Open House, we may need to stagger the timing of arrivals and departures of certain visitors, in order not to have too many congested areas. Please note on the Annual Calendar provided on our website that we are compartmentalizing which grades are involved in which events, so that by the time students have graduated from King's they will have a rich diversity of special events in which they were involved!
- **Weekly Email!** - Our number one way to communicate long distance with you and keep you abreast of upcoming events and fundraising opportunities is our weekly email that will be consistent this coming year. The Annual Calendar is also available on our website, BUT the Monthly Calendar, also on the website, has even MORE DETAILS, such as Dress Up Days and Sports game details. You can also CALL US anytime you have a question!
- **Willingness to Cooperate** - Cooperation with and respect for school and state guidelines will continue to be a part of the student's annual school contract, that they are required to sign along with a parent. The updated student contract must be read and signed before the first day of school.

Please contact me if you have any questions: kgirling@kingsschool.info

We are at school on Tuesdays from 9:00-1:00 (518)-654-6230

Or you may call my personal cell (518) 791-0756.

God Bless You All,
Mrs. Girling
And the School Management Team