

Safety Protocols in Action

Schedule: Our small size is an important contributor to our being able to re-open the campus.

Scheduling will be important to avoid large gatherings. These are the steps we have planned for:

1. We are adjusting the schedules for students to account for reduction in large groupings on the campus. Schedules will reflect an attempt to maintain consistent grouping patterns of students.
2. PCS buildings will be open to students and school personnel only until further notice. Appointments will be required for all non-PCS personnel to enter the campus facilities. Checkout procedures will be adjusted to reduce/remove the need for entrance into the building.
3. Students will have restricted movements throughout the day with monitored and structured class changes, hallway walking patterns, and playground time/PE scheduling. Students will not have use of a school locker. The reduction of traffic in the hallways is an important part of the PCS back to school plan.
4. Lunch schedules will be adjusted and numbers monitored to allow for a rotation of seating opportunities.
5. Students and staff will wear face coverings over their noses and mouths when moving from one place to another and any other time that adequate distancing is not maintained. Providence will adhere to the direction of authorities if constant masking is mandated or otherwise deemed necessary by PCS administration. We will begin the school year with full-time face coverings by students in grades 2 through 12 and by all staff at every level.
*Approved face coverings include solid color masks or neck gaiters, and plastic shields that cover the nose and mouth and extend beyond the chin.
6. Grammar students will have outside play time each day where masks will not be required. On-campus logic and rhetoric students will participate in elective coursework which will include fine arts and physical education classes. Students doing physical activities are excluded from the masking requirement.
7. Outside areas will be created for use as often as possible.

Pre-screening: Screening is a cornerstone of our being able to re-open the campus. We will screen for temperatures as each person enters the building each day. However, an integral part of disease prevention must take place each day before the decision is made to go to school. We will ask students and expect that they and the PCS staff have screened themselves. If the answer is yes, the screening process at the door will go quickly and smoothly. Here are the steps:

1. Are you sick? Have you had a fever of 100 degrees or higher within the last 24 hours? Have you been vomiting or exhibiting other symptoms of an intestinal virus? If the answer is yes in either case, **stay home**. This is normal PCS policy and not specific to COVID-19.
2. Do you have the common COVID-19 symptoms? Shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, cough, or fever? **Stay home** and call a doctor for an appointment.
3. Have you been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19? **Stay home, notify the school** and continue remote learning. If you are symptom free for 14 days after exposure, call the school to discuss the possibility of your return under a doctor's guidance.
*Exposure is defined as unmasked contact with another person for 15 minutes or longer and closer than 6 feet, or a confirmed case within your household. It is imperative that all staff and

students recognize that exposure is as likely to take place away from the PCS campus as it is during the school day on the campus.

Students in Coronavirus quarantine are not bound to the PCS attendance policy.

4. Have you been exposed to someone who exhibited all the symptoms of COVID-19 but is awaiting screening, testing, or results of testing? Stay home and await the results of screening or testing. If the test is positive for COVID-19, follow #3 above.
5. If you can answer “no” to the above questions each morning, you are fine to come to school. We look forward to seeing you.

Temp Check: In addition to asking students if they have completed pre-screening, we will check temperatures of each person entering the building with infrared thermometers. Anyone whose temperature is above 100.0, or who feel sick, will be sent to a designated holding area to be re-checked. If their condition or elevated temperature remain, they will be sent home.

*Often symptoms emerge after one arrives at school. We will encourage our staff and students to carefully monitor themselves and that teachers carefully observe their students throughout the day for signs of illness. If observed, they will move directly to a holding area for monitoring and temperature screening.

Self-sanitizing: Students and teachers will apply hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving the classroom and must wash hands with soap and water each time they go to the restroom. Students and teachers must be self-disciplined to cough or sneeze into the inside of their elbow and to keep their hands off their faces, common surfaces (as possible), and others.

HVAC and Outside Space: The PCS HVAC system has been monitored to allow fresh air flow into the system. Additionally, specific filters are being added to better remove bacterial aerosols from the air flow. Classrooms will be encouraged to utilize fresh air opportunities and outside spaces on the campus where it is feasible.

Social Distancing: The schedule and movement about the building are structured to keep large numbers of people from congregating as much as possible. Same-direction flow of movement in hallways, and going directly to one’s classroom are critical in helping prevent crowding and exposures. All scheduling, including lunches, breaks, and carline procedures have been adjusted to alleviate crowding. PCS’ small class sizes allows us to spread out in the classrooms to allow 3 feet or more distancing in most classroom settings.

Masks: Face coverings will be a large part of the preventative plan during the pandemic. Any solid color cloth mask, gaiter sleeve, or a plastic shield that covers the face extending below the chin and the sides of the face will suffice. If you choose to purchase a lanyard to hold the mask, it must be a break away and solid color.

The purpose of the face covering is to slow the spread from the person wearing the covering to others. As we begin the school year, face coverings will be required for all students and staff. Students in grades 2-12** will be expected to wear their face coverings unless eating or officially addressing the class in a situation that they can distance from others at least 6 feet. A few class situations (PE and grammar playground) will be exempt from masking during activity, but social distancing will be encouraged.

*Teachers teaching a lesson or giving instruction will be allowed to remove their face coverings in situations where they can distance themselves.

** Students in the 1st grade will use face coverings in periodic situations during the day. All PCS teachers and staff will have masking as a requirement in the presence of other people and when moving about the buildings.

Daily Disinfecting and Sanitizing the Building: Each day teachers and staff will disinfect and sanitize common surfaces throughout the classrooms, halls, and bathrooms using products such as alcohol and disinfectant sprays. Interior doorways will be propped open where feasible. Water fountains will be disabled except for bottle-filling stations. Each student will be expected to bring their own water container to school.

Our carline procedures have changed to prevent the gathering of students as they wait to go home.

Drop-Off and Dismissal

The prevention of congregation of people in large groups has created the need to adjust our procedures of drop-off and dismissal. Morning carline will not appear to be substantially different for the driver in carline. We will continue to use the same drop-off zones in the morning as we have in years past.

Drop-Off

Once students arrive on the campus to begin the school day, we ask that they move directly to their assigned doorway for entry into their screening area. There will be multiple screening zones that are in close proximity to the classrooms used by the grade of the student being assessed. Once a student is screened, they will then move immediately to their homeroom/1st period classes.

Dismissal

The afternoon carline has been adjusted to prevent the gathering of students together while waiting to be picked up. Students at all levels of the school will now wait in the classroom of their last class of the day for their name to be called. Once their name is called, they will move to the loading zone to wait to get into their car.

The biggest change that this system will require is that we are no longer grouping students by carline color. Therefore, we need each family to get a carline disk for the carline color corresponding to the grade of each student and not for the color code for the time that the driver will be picking up their student (if it is different).

Red (2:30): 1st and 2nd grade

Blue (2:40): 3rd and 4th grade

Green (2:50): 5th and 6th grade

Silver (3:00): 7th and 8th grade

Gold: 9th-12th (3:20) (we have added a new color in addition to Gold which is White- for those cars that are leaving the campus directly and have no pickup of other non-Gold students). The white disk vehicles

will be able to exit out the top of the campus via the 2-way driveway that also serves as the school entrance.

For example: If you have a 2nd grader, a fifth grader, and a 9th grader you will need a red, a green, and a gold disk. If you pick up at 3:20 you will stage next to the gym, pick up your 9th grader, then stay to the right in the breezeway area and proceed to the rear of the grammar building to pick up your 2nd and 5th grader who will be loaded on the driver's side of the car.

Beyond the holding of students inside in the classroom of their final class of the school day, the most noticeable change will be the location of logic student afternoon loading. We will now load from the cottage side of the quad buildings facing the grammar building with 7th graders in one position and 8th graders nearby in another.

***There will be no passing of cars waiting to load between the grammar building and the cottages.**

The communication method and the loading students in this manner is completely new. There will be some adjustments and changes required. Please be patient with us as this will likely be slow to begin, but it will speed up considerably. Our goal is that after a week or two, the afternoon carline will run similar to the efficiency of years past.

First day of school

To honor COVID safety guidelines, rather than a welcoming parent rally, grammar parents will be invited to a 1 on 1 meeting with their teacher. This will occur with an appointment in the days prior to August 12th.

On this first day we will operate with a schedule that will have grammar (Grades 1-6) dropped off between 7:30 and 8:00 (no walk-ins please) and picked up at: 11:00 Red; 11:10 Blue; 11:20 Green, Grammar Silver and Gold.

Grammar First Day – For students only:

Grammar 1st through 6th Drop off in front of Grammar building 7:30-8:00 AM

Picked up by grade in carline colors:

11:00 Red (1st and 2nd)

11:10 Blue (3rd and 4th)

11:20 Green (5th and 6th) – Grammar Silver and Gold

Logic Drop-off in front of gym from 8:30-9:00

Students will run a mini-schedule and meet their teacher

Logic carline 11:55 Silver

Rhetoric Drop-off

9th/10th 12:30

11th/12th 12:45

Rhetoric dismissal 3:20

Conclusion

As PCS seeks to faithfully serve your family to the best of our ability in these uncharted waters of COVID-19, we are implementing procedures that are somewhat uncomfortable as they are much more restrictive than how we normally operate. No one likes having to operate in such a restrictive manner. Please know that we care for our students and families and want to create an environment that allows us to meet in-person safely.

We pray the procedures we have put in place allow us to meet uninterrupted throughout the upcoming school year and that we will soon return to our normal practices of fellowship in assemblies, exordium, pep rallies, grammar student hugs, and hearty handshakes.

We look forward to seeing you soon.