

REOPENING PLAN PREVIEW

June 25, 2020

Inside

The Campus

The School Day

Extended Day, UCAL, &
Athletics

School Trips & Major Events

Safety Guidelines

Distance Learning &
Learning at Home

Questions



THE CAMPUS



Cleaning & Sanitation

A full-time day porter will disinfect commonly-touched areas throughout the campus, multiple times per day.

Hospital-grade cleansers will be used every night in all classrooms, restrooms, offices, and other common spaces.

Disinfecting foggers will be used to spot treat areas where suspected illness has occurred.

We will disinfect the nurse's clinic immediately if a student with possible COVID-19 symptoms visits the clinic.



Hallways

Faculty will enforce social distancing practices in hallways, and signs will be posted throughout the building detailing social distancing expectations. For more information on how we are limiting the use of hallways, see "The School Day" section, specifically "Carpool" and "Cohort Model."



Nurse's Clinic & Quarantine Room

We are creating an additional room in our nurse's clinic to allow for two separate areas. In one room, nurses will tend to minor cuts and bruises, etc. The other room will serve as a quarantine room for any student exhibiting potential COVID-19 symptoms.



Visitors

Campus visitors, including parents, will not be allowed on campus for the foreseeable future. Only AOS employees, students, and essential services (i.e. therapists, repair workers) will be allowed onto the AOS campus.

Our temporary visitor policy will come as a disappointment to many. It is equally disappointing for us, as parent involvement is such a huge part of the energy of AOS. However, it is a necessary sacrifice to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. We will revise this policy as soon as it is safe to do so.



Water Fountains

Water fountains will be turned off, but bottle filling stations will remain on.



Lockers & Cubbies

MS students will not utilize lockers and will instead store their school supplies in their backpacks. Students will keep their backpacks with them in their classroom. Teachers will actively seek to reduce the amount of materials that needs to come home with students each day, and students should only bring to school what is absolutely necessary. We encourage families to purchase small backpacks (instead of the larger, rolling backpacks) to help reduce classroom clutter. For more information on changes to our classroom and instructional models, see "The School Day" section.

We are still considering our policy for Jones Center and lower school cubbies and will provide more information on this in our update in late July/early August.

THE SCHOOL DAY



Carpool

Arriving and departing students will open their own doors and enter/exit vehicles without assistance. Adults will no longer open doors and help students out of the car. Parents with children who are unable to exit their car unassisted will need to park in the lower school parking lot and walk their child(ren) to/from the front of the lower school building.

We will run two carpool lines to speed up the screening process during morning carpool. (For more information on the screening process, see "Temperature Screening" under the "Safety Guidelines" section.) We will share new carpool routes and further details by the first week of August and will do our best to make the new process as smooth as possible.

Afternoon carpool routes and times will remain the same for all divisions with new safety measures to keep students and adults distanced and safe. For example, students may remain in their classrooms until their parent enters the carpool line.



Classroom Changes

We are redesigning our classrooms to allow for social distance between students. To do this, we will increase the number of sections in almost every grade and will shift students around because some rooms will safely hold more students than others. We are transforming multiple common spaces into classrooms to accommodate the additional sections.



Cohort Model

We will implement a cohort model under which every student in the school will stay with a single cohort of students throughout the day and will largely stay in the same classroom with those students. For our younger students, this change means classes like music and art will likely occur in the classroom and they will not see friends from other classes during times like lunch and recess. For our older students, they will stay in one classroom for all of their courses instead of moving from room to room and will not "mix" with other students from their grade during times like lunch and P.E. This model exposes students to the germs of far fewer people than our typical model.

This means that the class lists that we disseminated for Jones Center and lower school will change. We are not releasing new class lists at this time. We know this may create apprehension for some parents and students, and we promise to release new class lists as soon as we are reasonably sure they will not change again.



Teachers & Homerooms

Teachers will travel between classes and will still teach to their specialty, though some teachers who did not previously have homerooms will now have homerooms.



Enrichments

Our approach to enrichment offerings will change. This may mean focusing on single enrichments for blocks of time (i.e. 3-4 weeks), then switching, or it may mean a limited scope, as some activities (such as singing) are actively discouraged by the medical community. A more detailed look at what this will look like will be available in late July/early August.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our students continue to receive a well-rounded education which includes exposure to new and different material, concepts, and subject matter.



Recess & P.E.

Movement and sunshine are very necessary for all of us - especially so as we transition to a less-active school day. Students will get outside every day (weather permitting) to participate in organized activities, all while social-distancing.



Breakfast & Lunch Services

SAGE will serve a hot lunch to students in their classrooms. We are dedicated to continuing to offer students choices for their lunch items, and we are currently working with SAGE to create a formal process to do so. Students are welcome to bring their own lunch to school, and we encourage all students to bring a personal, labeled water bottle with them each day.

AOS will suspend breakfast service until further notice.



Chapel

All students will continue to attend chapel. For lower and middle school chapel, we will livestream the service from the Cathedral to all classrooms while a cohort or two attend in person. We are still working on the logistics for Jones Center chapel, but we are dedicated to holding it in some fashion.



Classroom Materials

Students will not share any materials (calculators, markers, pencils, devices, etc.) in the classroom. The school will order additional materials not in student supply packs to ensure that nothing is shared.



Technology

To avoid sharing, we purchased additional Chromebooks so that all 3rd-8th-grade students will have their own device. 3rd- and 4th-grade students will leave these at school unless we are required to transition to distance learning.

We will assign individual iPads to Delphi-2nd-grade students to eliminate sharing. These iPads will go home with students in the event we are required to transition to distance learning.



Uniforms

Because of the size of our locker rooms, students will not be permitted to use them for changing for the foreseeable future. We will temporarily encourage all middle school students to wear their official P.E. uniforms all day, as it may be uncomfortable to participate in P.E. outside in a regular uniform. Students may also choose to wear uniform shorts or a skirt over their P.E. shorts. This temporary change does not reflect our overall beliefs about student uniforms, but it is a necessary sacrifice to ensure our middle school students are comfortable during the day.

Jones Center and lower school uniforms will remain the same, according to our 2020-2021 uniform program.



School Schedule & Calendar

Due to the operational changes necessary to support our new cohort model, we are temporarily discontinuing professional learning sessions for our faculty on Tuesday mornings. Therefore, we will not operate a late-start Tuesday schedule, and all school days will begin at the same time (8:00 AM).

The first day of school for lower and middle school will remain Wednesday, August 19. It will be a full day as previously scheduled. The first half-day of school for Jones Center students will remain Tuesday, August 25, with the first full-day remaining Wednesday, August 26.

We will reissue a new major dates and holidays school calendar in late July/early August. All major breaks will remain the same. We may add additional professional development days for our faculty and staff, and a few early dismissal days may be added and/or rescheduled.

AOS already has more instructional days than many Texas private schools, and we do not believe that adding additional days is necessary to fill any gaps that may have been caused by last year's distance learning. If COVID-19, a hurricane, or any other event prevents us from being in school for an extended period of time this year, we will evaluate our options at that time and adapt if necessary.

EXTENDED DAY, UCAL, & ATHLETICS



Extended Day

We will not offer any in-person/on-campus Extended Day activities, except EDC, this fall, though we are currently exploring virtual solutions for a few after-school activities. If we find a way to run programs safely or social distancing restrictions are lifted, we will consider offering them in the winter/spring. These cancelled activities include: After-School Activities, Music Clubs, and Student Clubs (Quiz Bowl and AV), with possible virtual solutions forthcoming for some.

We will offer EDC, our before and after-school childcare program, but we encourage families to utilize these services only if truly needed. We will send more details about what this will look like along with an interest form mid-July. EDC will operate under all of the same safety protocols as the school day, and we are still exploring what cohort models will look like (which is also dependent on how many people register for the program).



UCAL & Athletics

We do not yet know if we will have UCAL sports or MS athletics this fall. We will work closely with UCAL and HJPC to ensure we make a decision that supports our efforts to keep our community members as safe as possible. We will communicate more on this as soon as we have additional information.

SCHOOL TRIPS & MAJOR EVENTS



School Trips

We are currently evaluating our options with regard to all of our overnight trips. Each trip brings its own set of challenges with regard to student and chaperone safety. Trips may be modified to a different location, postponed until later in the year, or cancelled altogether. We recognize the importance of our trips for team-building and bonding, and will seek creative alternatives to fill these needs if we are forced to cancel. We will keep families in the appropriate grades apprised of our progress starting in late July.

We do not yet have information about regular school-day field trips at this time, but we will develop this plan in the coming weeks and will include this in our comprehensive plan in late July/early August.



Major Events

In an effort to prevent “mixing,” we will cancel, postpone, or move to virtual all major on-campus community events. These events are cherished by all of us, and we will get as creative as we can to offer safe experiences whenever possible. We are moving some fall events to the spring in hopes that we will be able to hold them then. Additional details about our approach to some specific events will be shared later this summer.

SAFETY GUIDELINES



Our first line of defense is you. We all must lower our threshold for when we choose to stay home and when we keep our children home. If there is any sign of potential illness that could be COVID-19, we must not come to school. We as a community must work in partnership to safe-guard our AOS family.



Masks

We are requiring all students in 1st-8th grade to wear parent-supplied masks while on campus. Students in Delphi-Kindergarten have the option to wear masks or not. All students will take “mask breaks” outside and when they eat/drink. Adults will also wear masks when inside the building.

The types of masks that will and will not be allowed will be communicated in our final plan and will be based on the latest research. We will most likely allow cloth masks as well as the blue medical masks that are very common. We do not yet know if we will allow face shields or clear masks for teachers or students.



Temperature Screening

AOS staff/faculty will use an infrared forehead thermometer to take the temperature of each student every morning. For those students arriving via the carpool line, a faculty or staff member will take their temperature prior to exiting the car. For students walking from the lower school parking lot, a faculty or staff member will take their temperature prior to entering the building.



Hygiene

We will require frequent hand washing. Teachers will give lessons on how to properly wash hands.

We installed sanitizing stations around campus and will require their use in various scenarios.



COVID-19 Symptoms on Campus

We will immediately call a child's parents and expect them to immediately pick up their child.

Per CDC recommendations, any person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be assumed to have COVID-19 unless a negative test or alternative diagnosis by a medical professional deems otherwise.

COVID-19 symptoms currently included the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



Positive COVID-19 Case in the Community

If any student or faculty/staff person tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow [CDC recommendations](#) which state that the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications)
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared

We will inform the whole community when a positive case emerges, and we will tell those families whose child had direct contact with that person that their child was exposed. The identity of the person who has tested positive will be kept confidential. The Health Department will inform AOS of any positive cases in our community. Community members also have the option to self-identify. Any individual who had direct contact with the person who tested positive must quarantine for 2 weeks prior to returning to campus.

The cohort model and schoolwide social distancing practices will allow our students to miss far less in-person class time if/when we have a positive case in our community, as everyone who was not directly exposed will be able to return to campus.

We know this broad overview raises numerous “what if” scenarios. We will address as many of these as is possible when we share our extensive guidelines regarding suspected cases, confirmed cases, etc. in late July/early August.

DISTANCE LEARNING & LEARNING FROM HOME



Distance Learning

Multiple groups are working to rebuild and enhance our approach to distance learning. This new approach will allow for an easier transition into and out of on-campus learning, limiting lost learning when students are not physically in a classroom. We will provide a comprehensive look at our updated approach to distance learning as the school year approaches.



Learning from Home

We know that, despite all of our safety measures, some families have extenuating circumstances and may not feel safe sending their children back to the AOS campus when we open this fall. We are working on an option for these families that will most likely involve streaming lessons from classrooms. We will share more information on this as the school year approaches.

QUESTIONS

We know this “preview” will raise many questions, and we are still seeking many answers. If you have questions or want to make sure we consider a particular idea, please use the Google form provided below. We will consider your thoughts for the next iteration of our plan and, if requested, will reply with a personal response. Note that personal responses may be slower than usual during our annual summer shutdown period from June 26 - July 12.

[Submit a Question](#)



REOPENING PLAN PREVIEW

Annunciation Orthodox School
3600 Yoakum Boulevard | Houston, TX 77006