



2020-2021 Reopening Plan

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Our Aspiration

At Living Stones it is our mission “to be a neighborhood Christian school (Preschool-6th grade) committed to inspiring the hearts and minds of our students; equipping them to embrace cultural, economic, and racial diversity; and empowering them to love and serve in community.” The work of inspiring, equipping, and empowering is best done when we are with our students; formation is embodied work. Jesus, Immanuel, the “with-us” God, taught us that. That is why we long for in-person learning at 1415 Lyon St NE this fall.

At the same time, **we are deeply committed to the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our students and staff.** That is why our Reopening Plan follows the guidance we have received from the Kent County Health Department, [Governor Whitmer’s Return to School Roadmap](#), the CDC’s [Interim Guidance for Administrator’s of US Schools](#), and the American Association of Pediatrics’ [Guidance for School Re-entry](#). These health and educational experts have been incredibly helpful as we have crafted our plan.

Our reopening team began our work in early June. As we began to review the guidance from health experts, we recognized that Living Stones has many advantages. Those include:

- Large classrooms (ranging in size between 850-1100 square feet) and small class sizes (ranging in size between 10-23 students) that allow us to easily meet the recommended six square feet for social distancing in classrooms.
- A campus surrounded by acres of green grass and large shade trees ideal for outdoor learning.
- Creative and committed staff willing to adjust in order to serve students and families well. Changes to our daily routines will allow us to significantly reduce the number of people a student will be exposed to each day. By “clustering” students by class we will reduce daily exposure to no more than 23 students, down from 200 last year.

Even still, returning to school will have challenges. In addition to the health concerns we all face, we also live in a deeply divided and polarized world. For the past ten years, Living Stones has struggled against the cultural reality of division by finding our unity in Jesus Christ. When challenges have emerged, instead of fracturing, we have pulled together. At times this has required putting aside our personal preferences out of our commitment to the larger, common good. Today we face a new set of challenges, ones that will no doubt stretch us. As we move through this current reality, I pray that Jesus’ teaching and example will be our guide. **Love over hate. Trust over fear. Hope over despair.**

Thank you for your patience and your prayers. We look forward with deep hope to a great year ahead of us at Living Stones.

Aaron Winkle, Head of School

At A Glance

Living Stones' 2020 Reopening Plan

As we began our work together, our reopening team first identified our priorities and working assumptions. These guided and anchored our discussions as we moved through the many questions before us.

Our Priorities:

- Return to in-person, on-campus learning and teaching, if possible
- Prioritize the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of students and staff
- Reduce the risk of spreading the virus by implementing daily screening and entry protocols, providing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), adjusting daily routines for students and staff, strengthening our daily cleaning protocols, and improving the air ventilation throughout the building.

Our Assumptions:

- Students will move through the school day in a “cluster” or “pod”. This means students will spend the day with their classmates and teacher, but not with students from other classes. This will significantly reduce the number of people students will be exposed to each day (average of 20 students). Routines and schedules will be adjusted to keep one cluster of students (one class) from being within six feet of other classes. This will impact the arrival, dismissal, recess, meals, etc.
- Desks will be set up in the classrooms six feet apart to help students practice the recommended social distancing.
- Daily schedules will be adjusted to reduce the amount of time students spend in shared spaces. Specials, meals, and library will be moved into the classrooms. Students will also be spending much more time outside and times in the group bathrooms will be scheduled.

Living Stones is returning to in-person learning for the fall of 2020 as long as we remain in Phase 4 or Phase 5 of the Governor's Reopening Plan. We will follow health precautions which are in accordance with local, state, and federal guidance. We expect and are preparing for some times of remote learning for individual students, for classes and/or for the entire school.

- Desks will be set up six feet apart in the classrooms. Classrooms in lower el will have new furniture installed to make this possible.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be added to every entrance and to other high traffic areas. Every classroom has a sink for regular handwashing. These important practices will be taught and reinforced by staff.
- Parents will be required to self-certify that their children are healthy each day by checking for COVID-19 symptoms, looking closely for a fever, persistent cough, and shortness of breath.
- Staff will take each student's temperature as they arrive to school each morning. If a student's temperature is 100.4 or above, students will not be able to attend school until they have adhered to guidelines provided by the health department (see below).
- Students will be expected to wear a facial covering while in common areas and whenever they are unable to maintain a distance of 6 ft. Preschool students will not be required to wear a facial covering in the classroom. DK-6 students will be required to wear facial coverings in the classroom when they are in close proximity (i.e. group work, partners). When outside, facial coverings will not be required.

Note: Because we are a Preschool-6th grade school, the health department encouraged us to have 6th graders follow the same guidelines for facial coverings.

- Staff will be required to wear a facial covering at all times, except when eating meals. Any staff member who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one.
- Students will each have their own school supplies.
- Deeper daily sanitizing and cleaning protocols have been established.
- Students will bring a water bottle to school. The drinking fountain will not be available.
- Large community events, such as Grandfriends' Day and the Christmas Program, will be re-imagined or considered for another time.
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged.
- Families will be encouraged to avoid having their child(ren) riding the bus, if possible. This will reduce the risk of exposure to students in other grades or who attend other schools. Students who ride the bus will be required to wear a facial covering, sit with family members, and practice social distancing as much as possible.
- Field trips will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis, with special attention paid to the health and safety of the activity and transportation to that activity.

For Remote Learning (RL):

While we will do all we can to make in-person, on-campus learning possible for our students, we will be prepared to move to Remote Learning, if necessary . Remote Learning would be required in the following scenarios:

- The school moves to Remote Learning if State or local health officials require it.
- A class moves to Remote Learning if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19.
- An individual student moves to Remote Learning if that student has been exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
Note: "Exposure" is defined as being within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes with or without a mask

Notes about Remote Learning:

- **We are developing a job description for a part-time Remote Learning Coordinator.** This staff member will serve as a coach to teachers and a support for students if/when we move to Remote Learning.
- If we move to Remote Learning, we will deliver new content to students and support their learning Monday-Thursday; Friday will be a day for students to catch up and for teachers to prepare for the following week. With Remote Learning we would continue to follow the school calendar.
- **Google Classroom** will be the platform that students in grades 3-6 will access to manage their work, discussions, and assignments.
- For students in Preschool - Grade 2, **SeeSaw** will be the online platform for viewing video lessons and uploading student's documentation of work (pictures, videos, etc).
- **Zoom** will be Living Stones' primary platform for live (synchronous) instruction and class meetings.



Screening & Entry Protocols

In order for this plan to work we must all abide by a shared set of expectations. Students and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must remain at home unless the symptoms are due to another condition that is clear and documented (i.e. seasonal allergies). In these cases a family must seek prior permission from the Head of School and in consultation with a healthcare professional for a student to attend school with symptoms.

We will conduct daily temperature checks as staff and students arrive. If a person has any of the following currently known symptoms of COVID-19, they will not be able to enter school.

- Cough or sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever (greater than 100.4° F), chills
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose
- Fatigue, muscle pain and/or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Red eyes
- Rash or new skin discoloration

Decision Matrix

Health & Testing

We will use the following matrix, based on guidelines provided by the Kent County Health Department and the CDC, to make decisions that support the health of our entire community.

Symptomatic - 1+ Symptom, Tested Positive	Symptomatic - 1+ Symptom, Tested Negative
<p>The student/staff member AND all household members of the student/staff member are immediately excluded from school. A student or staff member may return to campus when all of the following conditions have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three days with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication and Respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. persistent cough, shortness of breath) and 10 days since symptoms first appeared. <p>Household members, classmates, and teachers of the quarantined student/staff member who are close contacts are excluded for 14 days after their last date of close contact.*</p>	<p>The student/staff member is excluded from school until results of the test are negative.</p> <p>If positive, see scenario #1. If negative, the student/staff member must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication prior to returning to school.</p> <p>Household members, classmates, and teachers of the pending case should be monitored for symptoms while waiting for test results. If symptoms develop, they should call their medical provider to be tested for COVID-19.</p>
Asymptomatic - Tested Positive	Untested - 1+ Symptom
<p>A student or staff member may return to school when the following conditions have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten days have elapsed since COVID-19 test came back positive. Must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medications. 	<p>A student or staff member may return to school when the following conditions have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medications.
Contact w/ Someone Who Tested Positive	Contact w/ Member of Home Who Has Symptoms
<p>The student/staff member who had close contact with the person who tested positive must quarantine for 14 days since last date of close contact.</p> <p>Household members, classmates, and teachers of the quarantined student/staff member may continue to attend school and should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they should call their medical provider to be tested for COVID-19.</p>	<p>Students who live in the same house as the COVID-19 positive person are excluded from school while the household member is in isolation (10 days). The student must then quarantine for 14 days after the last date of close contact* with the person who tested positive.</p>

- * Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for at least 15 minutes with or without a mask.
- Students or staff who plan to return after recovering from COVID-19 must call the school at least one day in advance to request permission to return.
 - Any individual in the school environment who shows symptoms during the school day will immediately move to a designated location and be sent home.
 - If a COVID-19 test is needed, testing sites are open seven days a week to test anyone, regardless of symptoms and without a doctor's referral.



Adjustments to Daily Routines

Drop-off & Pick-up

Temperature screening will take place each morning as students arrive at school. Multiple door entry points will be used to control crowding during drop-off and pick-up times. Once students arrive at school they will go directly into their classrooms.

Hallways

Teachers will ensure that students maintain increased spacing in lines as they move through hallways. As much as possible, schedules and procedures will be planned to prevent classes from crossing each other in the hallway.

Classroom Seating & Lockers

Desks and chairs will be separated around classrooms to accommodate the 6-foot physical distancing. Backpacks and lunches will be kept in the classroom. Students will have staggered access to their lockers to maintain physical distancing. All outerwear will be kept in lockers.

Bathrooms, Drinking Fountains & Meals

Lower Elementary students will use the restroom in their classrooms. Preschool students and students in grades 3-6 will be scheduled by grade to use the group bathrooms. Drinking fountains will be turned off. Water bottles can be filled in the classroom (all students will be asked to bring a water bottle to school). Breakfast and lunch will be enjoyed in the classroom or outdoors.

Facial Coverings

Students will be required to wear facial coverings on the bus, when in common spaces in the building (hallway, bathrooms, office, etc), and when within six feet of one another in the classrooms. Families of students who are unable to wear a mask due to a documented reason should contact Mr. Winkle. Facial coverings will not be required when students are outside during school hours. Facial coverings will be required at arrival and dismissal times.

Worship

Worship is an important part of our life and learning together at Living Stones. Based on guidance from the Kent County Health Department, we will continue to worship each Wednesday morning. To keep students and staff healthy, we will either worship outside and remain socially distanced, or worship will be led from the gym and streamed into classrooms via Zoom.

Physical Education Classes

Physical Education classes will be held outside. There will be no person-to-person contact sports or activities. All equipment will be sanitized prior to reuse.

Art, Music, Spanish & Technology Classes

Art, Music, Spanish, and Technology classes will be taught in homerooms.

Recess Procedures

Classes will go outside for recess on a rotating basis. Each class will be scheduled for a specific area of the playground. Students will be able to play with only students from their class during recess.

Designated Space for Sick Students

A monitored room will be set up for sick and symptomatic students that are evaluated and/or waiting to be picked up.

Parents & Volunteers

Parents and volunteers will only be allowed into the building for critical school needs. All visitors must wear a facial covering and go through a health screening upon arrival that includes a temperature check.

Air Ventilation

Our improved air ventilation system will run throughout the day to ensure there is adequate air circulation in the classrooms and throughout the building. As much as possible, interior classroom doors will be propped open, and windows open to allow for fresh air to circulate.



Daily Cleaning Protocols

School-Wide Disinfection

We use EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) registered disinfectants to clean desks, common tables, countertops, doorknobs and handles, handrails, and bathroom fixtures every day.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

Hand sanitizing stations will be installed at all entrances and in other high-traffic areas of the building. Students and staff will be required to regularly wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus.

Partnering with Families

We rely on families to promote the same hygienic practices we will direct students to practice at school, including:

- Covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue and washing hands or using hand sanitizer afterward
- Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, drying hands with a paper towel
- Keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes
- Avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal items

FAQs

A. Where will students enter the building?

1. Preschool and Developmental Kindergarten students will enter directly into their classrooms.
2. Lower Elementary (K-2) students will enter near the Preschool playground.
3. Upper Elementary (3-6) students will enter at the main entrance.

B. Where will students go once they enter the building?

1. Students will go directly to their classrooms. Outerwear will be placed in the locker. Backpacks, lunches, and snacks will be brought into the classroom and stored in a milk crate that will be provided by Living Stones.
2. Breakfast will be available for pick up from a cart near each entry door.
3. Teachers will have morning work/activities available for students in the classroom if they arrive before 8 AM.

C. What time should student(s) arrive at Living Stones each morning?

1. Students should arrive at school between 7:45-8:00 AM each morning.
2. We recognize that due to work schedules, families may need to drop off a child earlier than 7:45 AM. If that is the case, please contact Mr. Winkle or Mrs. Brown to receive permission and to make arrangements.

D. Where will students eat their meals?

1. All meals will be eaten in the classroom or outdoors.
2. Breakfast will be available in a "To Go" bag as students enter the building each morning.
3. Lunch will be brought to the classrooms.

E. What will recess look like?

1. Students will still have the same number of recesses as in the past (three recesses for students in DK-6 and two recesses for students in Preschool).
2. Students will spend recess with their classmates but will not be able to play with students from other classes.
3. Students will go out to recess on a rotating basis.

F. Where will specials take place?

1. Specials teachers will go into each homeroom.
2. Physical Education (PE) will meet outside if at all possible. Otherwise PE will take place in the homeroom.

G. Bathrooms are a common gathering space. How will we limit students from gathering in the group bathrooms?

1. Preschool will have set times to use group bathrooms.
2. Grades K-2 will use the bathroom in their classrooms.
3. Grades 3-6 will have set times to use group bathrooms.

H. Bussing

1. Families will be strongly encouraged to walk, bike, drive, or carpool students to school if at all possible to limit potential exposure on the bus. Living Stones will provide contact information for families to try to encourage carpooling as much as possible.
2. Students and families who carpool should wear facial coverings while in the shared vehicle.

I. Facial Coverings

1. Students will be required to wear facial coverings on the bus, when in common spaces in the building (hallway, bathrooms, etc), and when within six feet of one another in the classroom.
2. Families of students who are unable to wear a mask due to a documented reason should contact Mr. Winkle.
3. Facial coverings will not be required outside.
4. Staff are required to wear masks at all times except when they are eating or drinking.

J. Will listening conferences still be held at the beginning of the school year?

1. Yes. Listening conferences will take place on the dates and times as originally published.
 - August 11, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
 - August 20, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
 - August 26, 3:30 to 6:30 PM
2. All listening conferences will be held outdoors at Living Stones Academy. Masks will be required for families and staff.
3. Families will receive an invitation to sign up for listening conferences in early August.

Special thanks to following people who formed our multi-disciplinary team to develop this Reopening Plan:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ▪ Liz Brown, Assistant Principal | ▪ David Wainer, 4th Grade Teacher |
| ▪ Kassy Gutierrez, Preschool Director | ▪ Lisa Schra, Advancement Director |
| ▪ Kelsey Merz, Kindergarten Teacher | ▪ Aaron Winkle, Head of School |