

# Ready to Reopen 2020-2021

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**JULY 15, 2020**

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**SCA Campus Return Plan**



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# A Safe, Balanced Return to School

Dear Seaside Families,

With the 2019-2020 school year officially behind us, I have spent time reflecting on God's goodness and faithfulness during the very difficult end to our school year. I am grateful for His favor and guidance, as well as the dedication of our teachers, students, and parents which made our first journey into distance learning, although not an ideal situation, a successful one.

As a new school year comes into view, *I am looking ahead to our return to campus, full-time for all grades*, thankful that our Lord will continue to faithfully guide and provide. We are working every day to make the health and safety of our teachers, students, and families a priority as we look to reopening our doors on September 8. We are eager to restore the personal connection between teachers, students, staff, and parents that makes Seaside such a special community.

Reopening the doors of SCA is not an event, but a process. While we have a fairly clear sense of what reopening will look like in the fall, it is impossible to predict with certainty what the state of COVID-19 will be when we return to campus. However, we do not believe that it would be in anyone's best interest to simply wait until then to let you know what our return to school will most likely look like.

While we have relied (and will continue to do so), on the guidance and scientific research that is constantly being updated and changing, we also are relying on faith-filled common sense, wisdom, and direction from the Lord. We are carefully studying and interpreting guidance that is being disseminated, while remaining committed to applying that guidance to our unique SCA community. As we consider suggested guidelines, we will assess their effectiveness, their impact on instruction, and their emotional and physical impact on our students and staff.

This first Campus Return Plan will give SCA families a general sense of what school will look like in September, with a level of detail that we feel is appropriate and prudent to publish at this time. We will send families a second plan early to mid-August and a third plan will most likely be sent a few weeks before the start of school. Our sincere hope is that we will continue to see progress in the battle against COVID-19 so that as we move into the fall, things will continue to be more open and normalized as Maryland hopefully moves into Phase 3 of recovery. However, we are also preparing for operations should we remain in Phase 2.

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***For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.***

**Ephesians 2:10**

The pandemic has changed much of our day to day lives, but Seaside Christian Academy's mission remains unchanged – to equip our students for *every good work in Christ Jesus*, and our mission will guide us as we plan our return to campus. I am looking eagerly and expectantly towards 2020-2021, overflowing with hope as I trust in our Heavenly Father (Romans 15:13), grateful for the opportunity to serve Him and the families of SCA, knowing He has more work for us to do!

Thank you for your partnership and support. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to email me at [jduchene@seasidechristian.com](mailto:jduchene@seasidechristian.com). I would be happy to find a time to speak with you and walk through any questions you may have.

In His service,

Julie DuChene  
Principal

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### *Philosophy Statement*

The outbreak of COVID-19 caused many states to take the unprecedented step of closing public and private schools across the country. While this measure was intended to protect the physical health of our students, staff and families, it did not address the mental health and spiritual health needs of our community. As we look to September and the reopening of our schools, we believe our focus must return to overall community wellness, not just physical health. While the guidelines in this document help to promote mitigation from COVID-19 and other diseases, they will also ensure our community remains healthy spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

Our goal as a school is to diminish our community's risk while ensuring our practices do not prevent us from delivering our mission, which is to provide an excellent education and discipleship process to SCA students. The guidelines established in this document are designed to promote the overall wellness (physical, mental, and spiritual health) of all members of our school community.

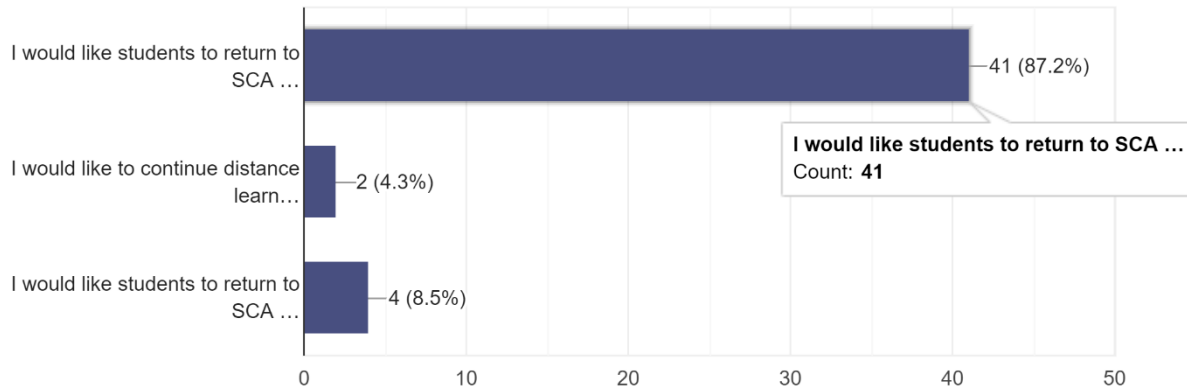
### *Principles for Reopening*

- Reliance and trust in God's grace and wisdom as we plan, prepare, and implement our Campus Return Plan
- Protect the holistic health and well-being of students and faculty/staff (physically, emotionally, and spiritually) by providing a safe, stable learning environment
- Utilize recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), state and local governments, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and other medical and educational institutions
- Collaborate with local non-public schools to pursue consistency in plans
- Plan for a high degree of normalcy in operations and learning
- Be sensitive to the needs and questions of our SCA families
- Communicate regularly and clearly with all SCA stakeholders
- Set clear expectations for all
- Be prepared to adjust, tighten, or relax our procedures/protocols as necessary

**As recommended by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), we sought input from SCA stakeholders by conducting a parent survey in June to help guide our planning process to meet the needs of the Seaside school community. We received a total of 47 responses. At the time of the survey, SCA had 50 families enrolled.**

Which of the following best describes your desire for your SCA student(s) for the 2020-2021 school year? (select only one)

47 responses

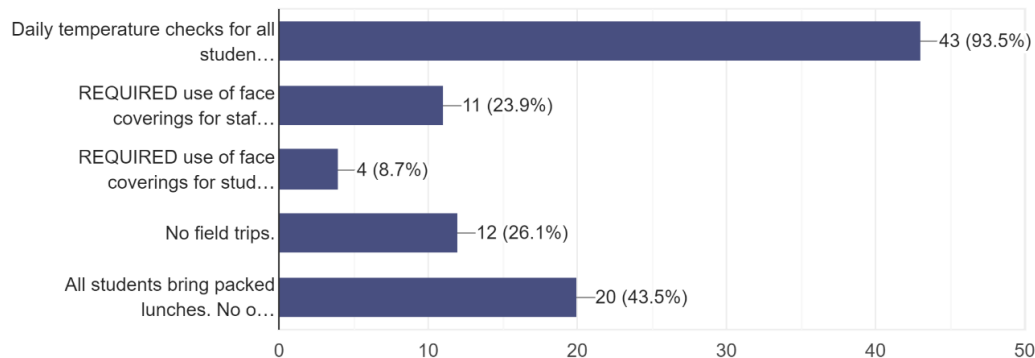


The possible choices for the above question were:

1. I would like students to return to SCA campus as close to normal as possible in the fall, on a daily basis, understanding that some of the regular services/activities may look different. (87.2%)
2. I would like to continue distance learning in the fall. (4.3%)
3. I would like students to return to SCA campus with the parental option of choosing distance learning (with a month by month commitment). (8.5%)

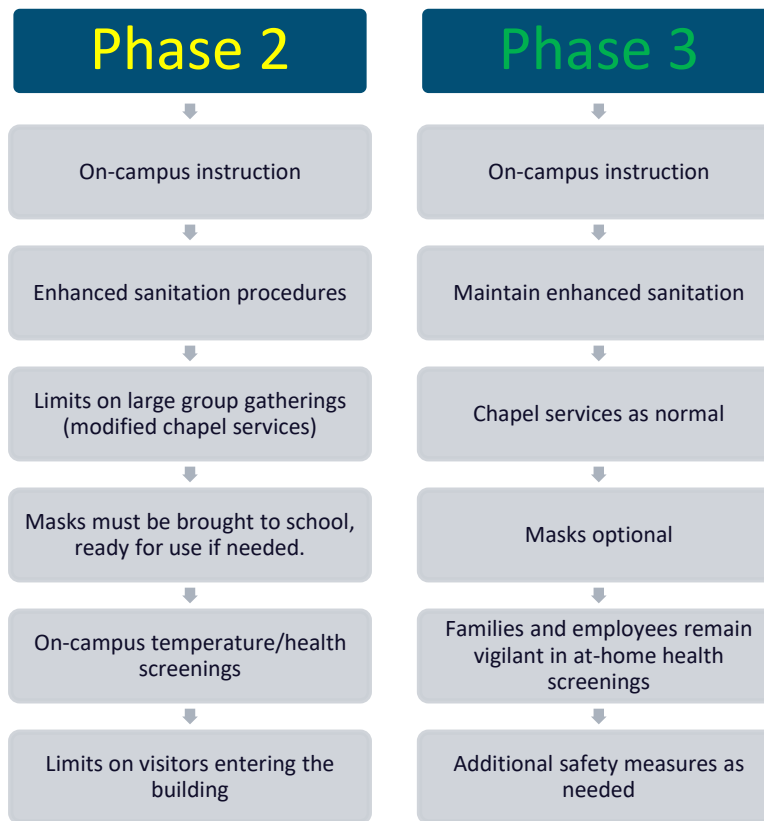
When SCA students return to campus, I would support the following standards for as long as necessary in order to provide a safe and healthy l...vironment (you make select more than one option):

46 responses



## Phases of Operation – What does school look like in each phase of recovery?

Currently, Maryland is in Phase 2 of recovery. We are hopeful that Maryland will be well along in Phase 3 of reopening by September 8, and successfully experiencing a significant reduction in the advancement of COVID-19. **However, we are preparing plans for reopening that allow SCA to reopen campus, full-time for all students, in both Phases 2 and 3.**



### DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

[CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators for US K-12 Schools and Child Care Centers](#)  
[American Academy of Pediatrics School Re-entry Interim Guidance](#)  
[MSDE Recovery Plan for Education](#)

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## ***Health and Wellness***

We will rely on official guidelines and recommendations in order to define the precautions needed to operate as safely as possible, including measures for on-campus classroom safety, and the daily use of the playground and chapel. While specific decisions and plans will be finalized in our second and third versions of our Campus Return Plan, strategies are being developed in the following areas, but not limited to:

### **Enhanced Sanitation**

- Increase frequency of disinfection in the classrooms.
- Increase frequency of disinfection of common areas.
- Provide hand hygiene stations at entrances.
- Maximize ventilation when feasible.

### **Screening & Monitoring**

- Ability to screen students and staff for symptoms.
- Plan for if students or employees get sick.
- Training for all staff on health and safety protocols.
- Prepare for effective response of positive diagnosis of student/staff.

***All members of the SCA community will be expected to meet high standards for personal health/hygiene practices.***

All families must commit to supporting Seaside Christian Academy's health and wellness protocols and must agree to keep children at home when they are not feeling well, have COVID-like symptoms, or have potentially been exposed. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they must stay home for at least 24 hours. **In Phase 2, all students will have their temperature taken at school.**

All employees will be expected to implement a health screening routine every morning prior to coming to school. **In Phase 2, staff temperatures will be taken at school.**

**In Phase 3, screenings will take place at home.**

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## ***Social Distancing***

When feasible, social distancing will be practiced in grades K-12 when in classrooms and hallways, not at recess.

- PreK students will not be expected to practice distancing.
- K-12 classrooms will be set up to maximize the distance between students when seated in their desks.

## ***Face Coverings***

**Phase 2:** All students in grades K-12 and employees will be required to *bring* a clean face covering to school every day and *may* be asked to wear them in scenarios such as the following:

- Where close contact between students is required such as in labs.
- Where close proximity between students and teachers is required, such as in one-to-one instruction with a shared resource. Teachers in grades K-4 will use face coverings when working in close proximity to individual students only as feasible.
- PreK students will not use face coverings at any time.

**Phase 3:** Face coverings will be optional.

## ***Large Group Gatherings***

**Phase 2:** No all-school gatherings will be scheduled. Recess schedule will allow one class on the playground at a time.

**Phase 3:** Large group gatherings will be permitted with minor changes.

## ***Extended Care***

Our Before and After Care program will function as normal in Phases 2 and 3.

## ***Drop-Off/Pick-Up***

Minor changes will be made to drop-off and pick-up, but we will not be altering the beginning or end of the school day.



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## ***Communications***

**We are committed to providing clear and continuous communication of essential information and updates for our families. SCA parents can expect to receive communication through email, text alerts, and updates on our website. As always, we will communicate clearly and often with families.**

**Flexibility and transparency are of the utmost importance and I want to encourage you to contact me if you have any questions about how we are serving your family. Seaside Christian Academy is here to not only provide a sense of continuity of learning for your child(ren), but also to provide a strong and safe community for your entire family.**

**Seaside Christian Academy's mission has not changed. We exist to educate children spiritually, academically, socially, and physically, to equip them for every good work in Christ Jesus. We will be prepared for this fall and we are ready to once again welcome students and families!**



**Welcome Back  
Seaside!**

***We can't wait to  
see you soon!***