

# MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Be Love(d). Belong. Become.

PLANS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



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MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN  
**ACADEMY**

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Dear MBCA Family,

To remain true to our mission and provide our families with the complete MBCA experience, we will open for our first day of school on August 6, 2020! To do that safely, MBCA has established a Healthcare Task Force committee, comprised of two of our administrators, two registered nurses, a doctor, and an emergency preparedness specialist. They are working diligently with local health departments, school personnel, and building facilities teams to develop a re-entry strategy that allows us to prioritize the health and safety of our community when we are back on campus.

Our re-entry strategy sets some expectations that certain health and safety procedures will be required. As part of the MBCA family, there will be safety protocols for you to follow at home and at school to ensure the safety of everyone. We look forward to partnering with you to keep everyone protected.

We do not anticipate a campus closure in the coming year. If, however, we have an interruption of physical operations due to government mandates, we will immediately shift to online learning until such time as we would be allowed to return to campus. Above all, we will continue to provide the quality MBCA education you have to come to expect, and we will do it in such a way that the children continue to learn and grow under the guidance of our amazing faculty and staff.

Please review this information and share the news with others that MBCA will be back on campus full time in August! Should you have any questions, please refer to the contact page at the back.

Above all, we are an MBCA family, and nothing is more important to us than bringing our community back together! We did a wonderful job with remote distance learning, but we're so excited to go back to campus and spend some much needed and well deserved time in fellowship with one another. ***And we can't wait!***

In His love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Kelly".

Lisa Kelly  
Assistant Head of School &  
Lower School Principal

# On-Campus Learning

The school, and by extension you as our school community, will need to follow specific health and safety precautions that limit the number of adults on campus. We realize that one of the things that makes us such a connected community is the level of parental support we have, so reducing contact is not something we are taking lightly. However, in accordance with the latest health guidelines, we feel it is the safe thing to do for the benefit of our students and our faculty. Specific decisions and plans regarding on-campus modifications will be reviewed with our Healthcare Task Force and finalized over the next several weeks as we receive more detailed information from local, state, and federal authorities. However, we are currently planning for the possibility of the following:



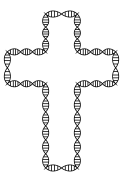
The standard drop-off and pick-up times will likely remain the same at both campuses. We will implement the use of carpool only drop-off and pick-up lines on the Main Campus in order to reduce the number of adults on campus. We are evaluating having certain entry and exit points, which may result in staggered times and/or extended timeframes.

Our faculty and the nightly cleaning staff will clean classroom spaces and commonly touched areas on campus regularly and with the appropriate cleaning solutions. Classes that share common tools and supplies will have new safety and cleaning protocols. We will lock down our exterior doors and open our interior doors to reduce contact with commonly touched surfaces..



If the recommendations include not serving lunch in a large group setting in the cafeteria, the Main Campus lunchroom will continue to provide both a hot and cold lunch option in the classroom. You will be required to order lunch ahead of time. The North Campus is evaluating lunch vendors and options, should in-class lunches become necessary.

If the recommendations limit large group gatherings, Chapel services will be streamed into the classroom with follow up activities for students in Lower School. Middle and Upper School students will have small group worship services.





Parents should take student temperatures each morning before leaving for school. We may require parents to complete a quick health screening checklist via Schoology prior to student arrival.



All faculty and students should have an appropriate, hands-free face covering for situations where social distancing is more difficult to attain. Students who utilize bus transportation to/from school or for athletics will be required to wear a face covering. Students may furnish their own buff or mask, and masks will be available from our uniform vendor in the next month at <https://www.millswear.com/school.jsp?path=-1%7C29675&id=389609>



We will limit the number of students in the restroom and/or locker room at any given time. Enhanced hand washing protocol posters for students will be placed in all restrooms.



Faculty and students will wash and/or sanitize their hands as they enter the classroom in the morning, between classes, or after movement around campus. We have added touchless hand sanitizers in high traffic areas on both campuses.



Students will need to bring refillable water bottles to school. We have added water bottle filling stations on each floor of the Main Campus and an additional location on the North Campus. Drinking fountains will not be accessible.



We will modify programs and events as necessary in compliance with limits on crowd sizes and social distancing measures. Desks will be spaced as far apart as feasible, the number of students on the playground or in other common spaces at one time will be reduced, LS and MS students will utilize separate stairwells on the Main Campus, and teachers will use empty spaces for small group work where possible.



Athletics will follow GAPPS and GHSA rules and regulations concerning the availability and rules of engagement for sporting events. As those organizations determine what activities can be done safely, we will allow our student athletes to play, following the appropriate protocols.



Continued ASP services will be offered on the Main Campus. Students will be separated into smaller groups and will be spread into multiple rooms and/or rotating groups on the playground.

# Online Learning

Online learning at MBCA will be rehearsed with the students and faculty, including working from home on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, and will only be instituted for longer periods if mandated in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. In this 100% online environment, students at all grade levels will work from home on school issued devices - iPads in JK-2 and laptops in grades 3-12. The teachers will modify their current curricula to fit this model according to each division's needs for as long as the situation is warranted. Learning will resume back on campus as soon as possible.

## Lower School

- Students will take home school issued technology they have actively used and practiced with in class: iPads for students in JK-2nd and laptops for students in 3rd-5th.
- There will be live, synchronous classroom instruction and scheduled breaks between classes to better support younger, more dependent students in completing the assigned work under the guidance of the teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Students will receive graded assignments and assessments in grades 1-5, as well as optional enrichment activities.
- Each special will have a live class once a week per grade level.
- MB Church will provide Tuesday chapel videos and Prayer Parents will hold follow up classroom discussions.

## Middle School

- Students will have Academic Days on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, following an adjusted bell schedule from 8:30 am - 2:35 pm with an hour break for lunch.
- Teachers will hold both synchronous and asynchronous classes.
- Every Wednesday will be Community Day with homeroom and group project meetings, chapel and small group worship, and office hours with scheduled additional support from individual teachers.

## Upper School

- Students will have four, 1-hour synchronous classes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday following an adjusted bell schedule from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, with a break for lunch.
- Blue Days will be Monday and Thursday, and Gold Days will be Tuesday and Friday.
- Every Wednesday will be Community Day with chapel/small group worship, Compass grade level meetings, DANIEL Project group meetings, and office hours with scheduled additional support from individual teachers.

# Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

- ***Do we have to follow what Cobb County does?*** No, we do not. Cobb County must plan for over 100,000 students across 112 schools, and the policies and procedures that work for one school must work for all. One of the benefits of being an independent school in a time such as this is that we can decide what makes sense for our families based on the information we have about our community.
- ***How are other private schools in our area handling things?*** Based on the information provided by SAIS (Southern Association of Independent Schools) and GISA (Georgia Independent School Association), the private schools in our area are taking very similar measures to ensure a return to on-campus learning.
- ***If families choose to travel, what will be required in order to return to school?*** At this point, we can't say. We will follow the recommended travel advisories provided by the CDC and the Department of Health. Our goal is to keep our families and faculty safe and in school by reducing the risk that the virus is brought to campus, so where you can limit travel, it benefits us all.
- ***What kind of face covering should I get my child?*** You're welcome to provide any hands-free option your child is comfortable with, including a buff, reusable cloth mask, or disposable mask. We recommend you purchase a minimum of 2-3 face coverings per student; one to be worn, one to be cleaned at home, and one to have in the backpack as a spare. We don't anticipate having to wear face coverings all day, every day in class. They would likely be utilized when the children travel through hallways or to shared space classrooms. As we get closer to August, we will provide you more specific guidelines and instructions for the care of these items.
- ***How will online learning be implemented, particularly for younger students?*** Taking into account your feedback, we have outlined what each division will require on page 5 of this document. In particular, there are some key items for Lower School that will change in order to help support and manage the learning of our younger students by our faculty, rather than by you as parents.
- ***What kind of guarantee can you offer that our students will be back on campus?*** We are confident we will be on campus five days a week beginning on August 6th, and we can't wait! Our best estimate, with the information available to us today, is that we may need to prepare for online learning at some point in the early winter for a potential second wave of infection. This is one of the reasons we adjusted the calendar to complete the majority of the first semester before Thanksgiving. We will train the students on the technology and the learning platforms so, should it be necessary, transitioning to online learning would be relatively seamless.

# Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

- ***If we are forced to be online for 30 or more consecutive school days, what types of credit can we expect?*** Taking your feedback into account, we are going to offer \$115 credit for lunch related expenses and \$100 for those who use our bus service. Should this event happen in the middle of an ongoing sports season, we will calculate the fees charged against the costs already incurred and provide a credit for the difference. We want to ensure our facilities are up to par for as fast a return to campus as possible, and these measures will allow us to provide you some economic relief while at the same time take the necessary steps to ensure the campus is ready to resume daily operations for students. And again, we want to stress that we will only go 100% online if mandated to do so, or if we feel our families are in immediate danger due to a spike in COVID-19 cases in our area.
- ***What will happen if there is a positive case of COVID-19 identified on campus?*** We will defer to best practices as they are further defined closer to the start of the school year and throughout the first semester as we learn more about how the virus spreads and affects people. Of all of our considerations at this time, this is the one with the least available information in terms of necessary protocol coming from the CDC and our local healthcare resources.
- ***What can we as parents do to help ensure the safety of our MBCA families?*** There are several things you can do to help us stay safe and on campus:
  - Practice proper hand washing and health protocols with your children at home prior to returning to school.
  - Act out of an abundance of caution when it comes to your child's health and keep them home if you suspect illness.
  - Ensure that any child with a fever as mild as 100.4 is kept at home until the fever has been absent for 48-72 hours.
  - Talk to your child about the importance of social distancing and practice wearing the face covering to reduce any anxiety.
  - Keep our clinic nurses informed of any illnesses at [nurse@mtbethelchristian.org](mailto:nurse@mtbethelchristian.org)
  - Medicate your children for things like allergies at home whenever possible to reduce unnecessary traffic through the clinic.
  - Follow the safety protocols we set up and exercise patience as we do everything possible to keep our children healthy and safe!
- ***Will the attendance policy be adjusted?*** Students will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments and assessments should they be out of school, according to the division-level policies. We will be reviewing the parent/student handbook and making any necessary adjustments as we near the beginning of the school year.



# Administration

Flexibility and transparency are of the utmost importance, and we want to encourage you to contact our administrative team if you have any questions or concerns about how we are serving your family. MBCA 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.



Lisa Kelly  
*Assistant Head of School  
& Lower School Principal*

Contact with questions or feedback about activities, curriculum, and events pertaining to the LS or the return to campus plan.



Keith Castello  
*Interim Head of School*  
Contact with questions or feedback about overall school policy.



Chip Barber  
*Director of Operations*  
Contact with questions or feedback about tuition assistance, financial planning, FACTS system, or payment schedules.

Bob Montague  
*Upper School Principal*  
Contact with questions or feedback about activities, curriculum, and events pertaining to the US.



Chelsea Shaver  
*Middle School Principal*  
Contact with questions or feedback about activities, curriculum, and events pertaining to the MS.



Alison Stephens  
*Director of Development  
& Communications*  
Contact with questions or feedback regarding the Annual Fund and any school communications.

Meridith Burba  
*Director of Admissions*  
Contact with questions about enrolling your child(ren) or referring other families to MBCA.



Our clinic nurses, Christine Laird, R.N. and Susan Birley, R.N., are available to take questions via email at [nurse@mtbethelchristian.org](mailto:nurse@mtbethelchristian.org).