

FAQ

Dear Clariden Families,

Over the course of the last 6 weeks, Clariden’s Opening Plan Task Force and Board of Directors have been working to evaluate the various guidelines relating to the coronavirus/COVID-19. A draft document was emailed on July 21 followed by a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss the plan and answer any questions you all might have. From these meetings my staff and I have come up with a FAQ for those who could not attend and to summarize what was discussed. During these Town Halls, we discussed that the Task Force felt a “keep it simple” plan is best for re-opening. The Opening Plan has been posted this week on the Clariden website. The staff and I are continually assessing ways to keep everyone safe and providing the best educational experience for all students and staff.

1. Lunch/Water fountains

- a. Will lunch be catered again this year? In keeping with the simple method, we will not be offering lunches from outside vendors. We ask that you send your Clariden Cougar with a lunch, snacks, and water bottle each day.
- b. Can they use the microwave and/or fridge? In minimizing gathering spots, students will not be able to use the microwave or fridge. Please pack their lunch accordingly.
- c. Will they eat in their classrooms? Yes, like last year all students will eat in their classrooms.
- d. Can the students use the water fountains to refill their water bottles? No, all water fountains will not be available during this time.
- e. Can students receive food deliveries or forgotten items? At this time, we will not accept any food deliveries or allow forgotten items to be delivered.

2. Staff Trainings relating to the coronavirus/COVID-19

- a. Will there be trainings? Yes! Staff will be taking online trainings offered from John Hopkins and Texas A&M. Staff will be trained in safety procedures and protocols relating to COVID-19.

3. Masks

- a. Does everyone have to wear a mask? Per the Reopening Plan, schools are required to comply with the governor’s executive order regarding the wearing of masks. Clariden will follow executive orders from the state and local level. Employees and students will be trained in proper mask/face shield wearing.

While coronavirus case counts are high – positivity rate 10% or higher in Tarrant and surrounding counties:

- Students 4th grade and up, all employees, parents, visitors and volunteers must wear masks.
- Students CP – 3rd grade, all employees, parents, visitors and volunteers must wear masks or face shields when not able to socially distance (minimum of 6ft.).

Answers to the questions above are subject to change based on new information or guidelines.

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Masks continued:

While coronavirus case counts are moderate – positivity rate greater than 5% and less than 10% in Tarrant and surrounding counties:

- Face shields and masks must be worn when social distancing (minimum of 6ft.) cannot be practiced by all students, employees, parents, visitors and volunteers.

While coronavirus case counts are low – positivity rate less than 5% in Tarrant and surrounding counties:

- No face masks or shields required.

- b. Can my Cougar Prep through 3rd grader wear a mask throughout the day? Yes of course! If you feel more comfortable with your child wearing one and you have discussed this with your child, please do so.

4. Cleaning/Safety protocols

- a. What protocols are the school doing to keep the building clean? The good news is, Clariden has always been a clean school. We have and will continue take pride in that. To enhance what was already taking place, Clariden will use appropriate medical-grade and neutral disinfectants within the classrooms and buildings. The entire building will receive another deep clean before the return of students on August 12th.
- b. What about air quality? Ventilation of fresh air is increased in all buildings. New air filters are being installed per recommendations from Harvard’s healthy school’s guidelines. Clariden is also fortunate to have windows that open and outside doors to the classroom gardens that can be opened to increase circulation.

The Task Force found a document called “safe schools” that included a piece on air quality. Mr. Perez went through the document and found that by using a better filter it decreases chances even more. These filters were ordered and are being installed now.

- c. How are you keeping the little ones safe and social distancing? For the younger students, we have purchased “mini offices” that will be assigned to each of them. Clariden will be practicing all safety measures outlined in the draft opening plan including social distancing. Students will follow visual markers and teacher instructions on how to remain safe while at school. We will also be working with the students to help them understand the importance of social distancing. We also ask parents to assist us with this effort.

We have also purchased teacher desk protectors to allow protection for both the student and teacher during those times when the student needs additional help. The staff and I have also walked each room and the hallways to have protocols in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. We can’t iterate enough that our two main goals are to keep the disease out of Clairden and to continue offering premier education to our students.

- d. Will you be checking the student’s temperature? Yes, we will be checking the student’s temperatures upon arrival and throughout the day. If a student presents with a fever of 100.4 or more, we will remove

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the student and take them to the health station and call their parents immediately. We ask that you make arrangements to pick up your child as soon as possible.

- e. What about other symptoms like runny noses, will they be sent home? Students will be evaluated and a determination will be made as to whether or not a student has symptoms that are of concern. Parents will be called to pick up the student for further evaluation by a health professional.

5. Art/Music/Gym Classes and extra-curricular opportunities

- a. Will the students still have art, music, and theater? Yes! The teachers and I are coming up with creative ways to continue with these classes while keeping the students safe.
- b. Will the students still have gym class? Yes! I am working with Coach Tony on ways for the students to get physical education and participate in sports that don't have personal contact with others.
- c. Can the students still participate in extra-curricular opportunities like Odyssey of the Mind? The quick answer is YES! We are working with the various organizations to see what details they are releasing and modifying as needed. More details to come!

6. Volunteers/Parents on campus

- a. Can parents volunteer in the classroom or be on campus? For right now, we are only allowing essential volunteers/parents on campus. In order for us to minimize the risk and keep the virus out, right now we are keeping our numbers on campus to only essential. There might be opportunities to help with projects at home. When you receive your back to school packet in the coming weeks, be sure to fill out the DIGS form.

7. Early/Extended Day Program

- a. Will Clariden still be offering the early and extended day program? Yes, we are! The difference being for the morning drop off the students will get their temperature check and will walk themselves straight into their classroom where their teaching will be waiting to greet them at the door. After school, you will line up in the carpool line and remain in your vehicle. Please post your child(ren)'s car pool sign where it can be read easily. A staff member will notify the front desk and your child will be called and asked to come out for dismissal.

8. In-person/virtual

- a. Can we switch between the two options? Yes, but we ask that you give you teacher(s) a one week notice of the switch. This allows them to add your child to the list of materials needed to the upcoming week. For students who are virtual, parents/students will need to pick up their materials for the coming week on the Friday before. More details will be provided soon.
- b. How does the two options differ? For students who are in-person, their instruction and work time will be no different than before. For those who are virtual, the student will log on and will see "live time" instruction and have work time as well. We will be providing more instruction as time gets closer. The staff and I, are working on schedules and details now.

We hope that these answers will help address any concerns or questions you might have. I feel so honored to be surrounded by such a talented group of individuals. Every staff member is working hard at preparing for the upcoming school year and ensuring that we provide a safe environment and the best educational experience. We will be sending out more specifics in the next week that will provide even more detail.

Sincerely,

Angela Naples

Interim Head of School

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