



*Where Children Grow in the Son*

## **SONRISE REOPENING PLAN**

*2020 - 2021*

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# Introduction

We feel it is absolutely best to have your children on our campus to help them grow and prepare for future education. We also recognize the need of most of our dual working families to have their children in a safe educational environment while they are working. We strongly feel children learn best through in-person instruction, not to mention the many benefits for continued emotional and social growth.

Yes, we will be open, but many of our school programs, operations and procedures will be temporarily modified until we know it is safe to revert back to pre-Covid operations and procedures. Even when that time arrives, some of the new practices may remain if it is determined to be in the best interest of keeping our Sonrise community healthy and safe.

Regardless of the caution and efforts to be made by Sonrise, it is of utmost importance that all families and employees understand the very real health risks existing from exposure to COVID-19, therefore it must be understood that attendance at Sonrise Christian School in 2020-2021 comes with an inherent risk.

Sonrise Christian School cannot and will not promise safety from COVID-19 or any other form of communicable disease to either its students or its employees. The possibility does exist that students or employees may and/or will be infected with the virus. We will do everything possible using all resources available to provide an exceptionally safe learning environment, however, Sonrise Christian School can in no way guarantee the safety of its students and/or employees. As you consider having your children return to school in the fall, please take this risk into account.

## School Closure Guidelines

During the Coronavirus pandemic, we have learned that plans for reopening our school and returning to normal will come in stages. Sonrise continues to monitor local, state, and federal guidelines to ensure we are following all regulations mandated for a safe reopening. The information below shows several potential options Sonrise is prepared to offer. Options are listed from most restrictive to least restrictive given the status of our district, city, state and country.

### *Distance Learning*

The state of CA mandates all public and private schools remain closed and offer distance learning.

- All public health regulations will be followed
- All students (both in the homeschool program and in-person program will be taught by the teacher)
- Teachers will utilize Google Classrooms to instruct the students, assign and grade lessons, provide academic and social/emotional support, and monitor student progress

### *Homeschooling Option*

All families are able to enroll students in the homeschool option with the expectation of the following:

- Curriculum and learning material provided by Sonrise teacher

- Lesson plans provided by Sonrise teacher
- Grading provided by Sonrise teacher
- Some instruction through live stream or access to recorded/uploaded content
- Parents will be required to be part of the process to guide their child's learning
- Parents will need to provide internet connection as well as needed technology devices
- Parents will need to provide all other normal school supplies such as paper, pencils, etc.
- Seat in classroom will be reserved for the possible return to in-person instruction

#### *Reopening w/ Public Health Waiver - K - 6th Grades*

Sonrise is granted the waiver to reopen in-person instruction for K-6th grade. All public health regulations will be followed.

- All students in K-6th grades will be given in-person instruction at school with the exception of those students enrolled in the homeschool program
- 7th - 8th grades will continue with distance learning

#### *Opened with Restrictions*

Sonrise is allowed to reopen (as are other private and public schools) and will follow all public health guidelines, such as:

- All students will be taught in-person at school with the exception of those students enrolled in the homeschool program

#### *Opened without Restrictions*

Sonrise is allowed to open with no COVID restrictions. At this point, Sonrise anticipates many students enrolled in the homeschool program will now return to in-person instruction at school.

## LEADERSHIP

### **COVID-19 Compliance Team (School Compliance Task Force)**

Manish Patel, Head of School  
 Carla Walulik, Middle School Principal  
 JT Wheeler, Dean of Students  
 Jessica Holmes, Technology Director

### **Communications Plan**

The administration, faculty, and staff will continue to provide families with COVID-19 updates throughout the year. As families have become accustomed to the Summer Updates from Mr. Patel, updates will continue to be provided throughout the school year. Communication will also be provided in the weekly all-school newsletter, *The Eagle Express*. Teachers will provide important information related to the health and safety of the students in their respective classrooms in their weekly classroom newsletters.

As plans have frequently changed due to the virus, Sonrise will continue to be flexible in how we address needs as they arise. When changes are made to policy or procedures regarding Covid, families will be updated as soon as possible.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## **School Calendar/Schedule Changes**

The school calendar has been prepared for the coming year with the knowledge that modifications may need to be made due to restrictions from COVID-19. When changes need to be made to the calendar, families will be notified as soon as possible.

## **Attendance and Grading (Distance Learning)**

Our desire for the 2020-21 school year is to have students on campus for live, in-person instruction in the safest way possible. In the event direct instruction cannot occur due to a COVID-19 school closure or a lack of clearance from our local health officials, Sonrise will make the switch to Distance Learning. Because the State of California has mandated all schools– public and private – must have a remote distance learning plan including student instruction, Sonrise will require student attendance and participation during any distance learning instruction and maintain our standard of grading and procedures for the duration of the distance learning program.

The goal for any distance instructional time that must be conducted away from the school's campus is for a continuation of quality teaching and learning with real results and accountability. Teachers will provide assignments, issue grades, monitor student progress, and engage with students regularly during remote learning periods. Students are expected to be engaged, attend any scheduled video meetings, submit assignments, and communicate with their teachers regularly.

While attendance is expected during remote learning, we also know that accommodating family needs and schedules during remote learning can be complicated. As mentioned in our plan overview, grace and love will guide our actions this year; as such, Sonrise will make accommodations as necessary to help support students and families.

## **Distance Learning Platform**

Sonrise will continue to use Google Classroom for its distance learning environment. Sonrise teachers have been using Google for several years, and many of our students are very familiar with the platform. In addition, various sites, apps, and content will be integrated based on need. Sonrise takes pride in being a 1:1 Bring Your Own Device school for students in 4th - 8th Grade, having Chromebooks for 3rd Grade, and iPad carts for K - 2 students. Technology is a regular part of daily Sonrise curriculum and coursework, and our students are uniquely equipped and prepared for a distance learning program.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Planning for Health and Safety of Individuals (when on campus)\*

Teachers and staff will spend a significant portion of time preparing for our return to school in discussing and reinforcing appropriate protective and preventative behaviors (e.g., Physical distancing, sneeze and cough protection, etc.) to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. Sunrise staff will use the guidelines outlined below to limit the spread and potential infection within our school community.

## Home Monitoring and Self-Reporting

The most effective way to prevent the spread of any virus is to isolate infected individuals. Monitoring your own children's health and taking preventative measures at home is the first and most important step in fighting the spread of COVID-19. If your child has a fever of 100.4 or greater, they will not be allowed to come to school. All students and staff will be temperature scanned before entering the classroom or their place of work.

As has been Sunrise's policy in the past, we will notify parents of elevated temperatures (>99) and not allow anyone to enter the campus with a temperature greater than 100.4.

Additionally, individuals with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild to severe. If staff or students display any of the CDC's COVID-19 symptoms, they should not come to school. Symptoms include the following:

- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

Should your student develop COVID-19 symptoms or be exposed to someone with COVID-19, please contact the Middle School Principal at [cwalulik@sonrisechristian.org](mailto:cwalulik@sonrisechristian.org) with your student's name, their teacher, and your name.

## School Start Time

8:00	6th - 8th
8:15	2nd - 5th
8:30	K - 1st

The first major change will be staggered start times for the school day. Our start time has been 8 a.m. for all grades K-8, beginning the day together as a family at our all-school flag salute. This year grade levels will be given new start times to create a steady stream

of arriving students rather than a large cluster at any given time. Students will now begin the day in the classroom instead of the playground. We will all miss our time of gathering together as a family to start our day, and we hope God allows us to do so again soon. For now, we will conduct our flag salute, sing a patriotic song, make announcements and share our weekly Bible verse in the classroom through other methods.

Extra staff will be available at the curb to assist students exiting vehicles and to direct them toward classrooms. Initially, the plan does not allow for parents to exit vehicles and come on campus. This is the best practice at this time to limit larger groups. The first day of school, which is so special, most especially for kindergarten families, will be the only exception to this rule throughout the year. Necessary modifications are being considered to allow for the option of parents on campus to drop off children for the first day of school.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Sonrise will be in compliance with guidelines set by the CDC and Public Health Department for navigating this time of Coronavirus. Anyone older than 2 years of age will be required to wear a cloth face mask while on the Sonrise campus. Parents are encouraged to send multiple masks with their child each day, making sure to write their name somewhere on the mask. Additional protection will be provided to students while seated in classrooms in the form of transparent desk shields. The office has been outfitted with sneeze guards in order to protect visitors and employees alike. Every employee will wear face masks while on campus and in contact with others.

### **Class Sizes**

Sonrise is confident in our ability to provide an in-person, on campus educational program due in large part to our commitment to maintaining smaller class sizes. Some classrooms will have as few as 12 children, with the maximum class size being 18. This will allow desks to be placed as far as 6 feet apart. As many grades as possible will be split to allow for smaller groups and more spacing in each classroom. Each small class will be viewed as a "family." As opposed to larger classes, these small class families will further facilitate the goal to keep students safe.

### **Classroom Procedures**

Temperature checks for students and staff will be a part of each morning routine in an effort to keep sick children/staff at home. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands immediately upon entering the classroom. Masks will be required for all students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Sonrise classrooms will be further protected and contained as family environments due to clearly defined restrictions on persons allowed inside each classroom. Classroom doors will be kept open as recommended by the CDC. In addition, every classroom will be stocked with a wide range of first aid supplies to reduce visits to the office for minor issues such as bandaids.

## **Temperature Checks**

Temperature checks for students will be a part of each classroom's morning routine in an effort to keep sick children at home. If it is determined that a student has a fever of 100+, the student will not be allowed to remain on campus. If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the child must follow quarantine guidelines. Other illnesses require that students must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication to be allowed to return to school.

## **Desk Barriers**

Desk barriers will be provided for each student in each desk in every classroom. The lightweight, portable barrier can be easily sanitized, stored and reused. We feel the combination of a desk barrier and the separation of six feet between desks will give our students a way to physically attend school safely.

## **Middle School Classes**

In middle school, the teachers will be rotating from class to class rather than students. By keeping students in the same desk throughout the day, the need for more frequent disinfecting student desks will be lessened. In addition to frequently cleaning the restrooms throughout the day and to continue in the pattern of keeping grade levels together in "family" groups, each grade level will be assigned a separate restroom.

## **Physical Distancing\***

Within the common areas of the campus (e.g., cafeteria, hallways) students will be encouraged to maintain appropriate distances from one another. Teachers and staff will monitor, remind, and correct students as needed during passing periods and other times when students are in common areas.

Lines, space markers, and other visual aids will be in place to remind staff and students of appropriate social distancing in hallways, restrooms, and other common areas.

## **Recess and Lunch Procedures**

Each individual class will have time to play outside, but will be assigned their own play area to keep interaction with other grade levels at a minimum. These areas will be rotated throughout the school year with a schedule and calendar to ensure that every class gets turns on the playground, basketball court, soccer field, etc. A list of games and activities is being put together that can be played safely while social distancing. If additional equipment is needed to facilitate these games and activities, equipment will be purchased. Schools are being offered many new resources and ideas for physical activity while maintaining social distancing. We understand the need to play and get fresh air is essential for our children and will ensure this is a safe part of our program. Restrooms will



be cleaned throughout the school day and major touch points for playground equipment will be wiped down systematically.

Lunch times will also be adjusted to limit the potential of larger groups gathering. Each class will have a designated lunch table with set limits for the number of children at each table to give adequate spacing while eating. Additional cleaning staff has been hired to ensure all common areas outside classrooms are clean and prepared for student use.

### **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

Every classroom will have a touchless hand sanitizer dispenser and others will be placed at other parts of the campus. In addition to encouraging frequent hand washing, required hand washing times will be scheduled.

### **Drinking Fountains and Water Bottles**

Students should plan to bring water bottles to school. The use of drinking fountains on campus will be discouraged to further avoid the potential spread of the virus. Students will be able to refill personal water bottles using the bottle refilling stations.

### **Shared Classroom Materials/Resources**

Materials in the classroom such as pencils or rulers etc. will no longer be shared. Students will be instructed to maintain and use their own personal school supplies. Lab materials that are used will be disinfected between student use.

### **Enrichment Instruction**

One of the many things that sets Sonrise apart are the outstanding enrichment classes we provide. Music classes will be in the cafeteria to allow greater spacing of students. Art and Spanish lessons will be taught in each classroom to reduce movement of students throughout the campus. For enrichment classes in which shared spaces must be used, these spaces will be cleaned and sanitized before a new group of students arrives.

### **Eliminating Soft Surfaces\***

Sonrise is removing "soft surfaces" from classrooms (e.g., cloth upholstered chairs, area rugs, etc.) for the 2020-21 school year that cannot easily be wiped down, cleaned, and disinfected. This will help eliminate areas in classrooms that could trap and accelerate the spread of the Coronavirus. "Circle Time" in lower elementary grades will continue but will not occur on carpets where students are closely gathered.

## **Illness Policy/Procedures**

Students who exhibit any symptoms of being sick or need more serious support will be ushered directly to the office. The office sick room has been expanded to safely allow more students to rest until they are picked up by family. The room will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use with EPA approved products that meet CDC guidelines for COVID-19. It is our hope that families understand the need to keep children at home if they are experiencing any signs of becoming sick. The attendance policy will be modified for more lenient excused absences. Perfect attendance will not be acknowledged this year to encourage families to keep children home to rest when necessary.

## **Campus Entry and Exit Points**

A new fence will be installed to limit the campus population. There will be entry/exit gates near the office, C and D buildings.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting\***

Sonrise will work with the janitorial staff to ensure that nightly cleaning includes the disinfecting of high touch surfaces (e.g., desks, lockers, door handles, etc.). Throughout the day, staff will work to disinfect high touch areas in classrooms and common areas: door handles, lockers, etc. Surfaces will be disinfected with an EPA approved product that meets CDC guidelines for COVID-19. Any classroom or space used by a student or staff member who directly contracts COVID-19 will be closed and returned to service only after it has been cleaned and disinfected utilizing EPA approved products that meet CDC guidelines for COVID-19.

## **Visitors and Parent Volunteers**

Until we know it is safe, we are not allowing parent visitors or volunteers on campus. Parents may come to the office for any needed support. The new fence in front of our buildings will help to keep our campus secured and as sparsely occupied as possible.

## **School Dismissal**

2:40	K - 1st
2:50	2nd - 3rd
3:00	4th - 5th
3:15	6th - 8th

Dismissal times and procedures for picking up children at the end of the day will be staggered and adjusted just as morning drop off times have been. Only students that enrolled in the daycare program will be allowed to stay on campus past scheduled dismissal times. Parents must pick up children within set time limits to maintain a steady flow of departing students.

## **Daycare**

Our daycare program will operate as normal. We will open at 6:30am and will close at 6pm daily. Daycare modifications are being made to keep children in smaller groups. At this time, we are planning to use the auditorium for daycare. In this larger space, daycare staff will be able to supervise students easily and utilize the many tables to safely spread out student seating. Temperature checks will be conducted as another measure of combating illness.

## **Steps for Managing Exposures to COVID-19 Cases at School**

### **1 Case**

- 1) School instructs the case to follow COVID-19 Home Isolation Instructions
- 2) School informs the case that the DPH will contact the case directly to collect additional information and issue Health Officer Order for Isolation
- 3) School works with the case to identify school contacts.
- 4) School notifies school contacts of exposure and instructs them to quarantine at home and test for COVID-19.
- 5) School informs school contacts that DPH will contact them directly to collect additional information and issue a Health Officer Order for Quarantine.
- 6) School submits contact information for case and site contacts using the COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Educational Sector and sends to DPH by email.
- 7) School sends general notification to inform the wider school community of the school exposure and precautions taken to prevent spread.

### **2 Cases**

- 1) Follow required steps for 1 confirmed case.
- 2) If the 2 cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school determines whether the cases have epidemiological (epi) links.
  - \*Epi links do not exist: School continues with routine exposure management.
  - \*Epi links exist: School implements additional infection control measures.

### **3+ Cases**

- 1) If a cluster of 3 or more cases occurred within 14 days of each other, school notifies DPH.
- 2) Prior to notifying DPH of the cluster, the school determines whether at least 3 cases have epi links. If epi links do not exist, the school continues with routine exposure management.
- 3) DPA requests that the COVID-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Educational Sector Be completed by the school to determine if outbreak criteria have been met.
  - \*Outbreak criteria not met: School continues with routine exposure management.

\*Outbreak criteria met: DPH Outbreak Management Branch (OMB) activated.  
4) School Provides updates to the OMB investigator until the outbreak is resolved (at least 14 days since last confirmed case).

(a) Health Officer Order, cases directed to self-isolate until no fever for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fever) AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared OR, if case has no symptoms, until 10 days have passed after their positive test was taken.

(b) Health Officer Order, contacts directed to quarantine for 14 days since date of last exposure to case while infectious.

[Home Quarantine Instructions](#)

### **Locating a COVID Testing Site**

If the student or a family member has symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19, testing is encouraged. Families can contact their individual health insurance for testing information or use the following link to find a COVID Testing Site.

[COVID Testing Site Locator](#)

## **INSTRUCTION/STUDENT LEARNING**

### **Plans for In-School, Face-to-Face Instruction**

Governor Newsom announced schools must wait until L.A. County drops off the state's watchlist to formally be allowed to reopen, but we are seeking a waiver being offered by the local public health officer. If clearance to reopen is granted by the Department of Public Health, all of the health and safety protocols listed in this manual will be followed.

### **Plans for Distance Learning**

If our waiver request is denied and we are required to only offer distance learning, two things can be stated with extreme confidence: First, our distance learning will be the absolute best educational program around and will, above all else, teach your children Christian values and the importance of knowing Jesus. Secondly, when we are given the green light, we will be prepared to return to campus at a moment's notice. We have to remember that it will get better at some point and kids will be on the Sonrise campus as we all want very soon.

### **Goals for Distance Learning**

If necessary due to a COVID-19 outbreak, Sonrise will transition to required continuous learning (Distance Learning) for students. Our goals for distance learning will remain similar to those outlined last spring during our first Distance Learning efforts when required to close in March:

- Our program will maintain the high standards of excellence in line with Sonrise’s philosophy of education.
- Instruction will be relevant, engaging, and meaningful for all students.
- Teaching and learning will be emphasized.
  - Teachers will treat distance learning as real school, with real work.
  - Attendance and completion of school work is mandatory for every student.
- Technology will be used to enhance learning, not hinder it.
- Teachers will engage with students personally.
- Instructional videos and training will be provided for Google Classroom and other platforms used.
- We will all remember to keep everything in perspective. We cannot replicate remotely everything that we accomplish in class.
- We will always continue working to achieve our Expected Schoolwide Learning Results:

*The ideal Sonrise graduate is a confident, well-rounded scholar who is a positive contributor to his community. He demonstrates God’s love through servant leadership. He lives a life of integrity and stands up for Truth. He is able to communicate effectively, think critically, and achieve his established goals.*

*ESLR I - Live God’s Truth*

*ESLR II - Demonstrate Spiritual Knowledge*

*ESLR III - Exhibit Academic Growth*

*ESLR IV - Maintain a Responsible and Well-balanced Life*

## **Required Attendance**

Since all schools are required to move to distance learning, attendance will be required and part of the grading system. Instruction will be continuous and include both synchronous (e.g., scheduled instruction via Google Meets or other video service) and asynchronous (videos and flexible off-line and online assignments without direct teacher interaction) learning opportunities. Student progress will be monitored and grades issued according to each teacher’s established grading system.

## **Distance Learning and Instructional Time**

Distance learning will include specific allotted time for instruction and completion of work for each grade level. Parents and students should expect daily instruction and student work and daily check-ins. Attendance will be recorded daily and a required part of the Distance Learning Program.

## **Potential Homeschool Learning**

Sonrise will offer a homeschool option and provide curriculum, pacing guides, lesson plans, grading of student work, assessments and access to guidance from our teaching staff. We will also provide video content for chapel and enrichment instruction. Students would also be able to check out library books and participate in our Accelerated Reader Program. The daily instruction will fall upon the parents.

## **Identifying Student and Family Needs**

As we continue to navigate the 2020-21 school year, Sonrise values the voices from its constituents. Parents are encouraged to reach out to administrators if there is a need particular to their child. It is important to foster the relationship between school and home.

## **Social and Emotional Care**

Whether teaching in person or through distance learning, Sonrise will continue teaching to the whole child following the Luke 2:52 principle. We realize the previous COVID-19 school closure was very challenging on the students, families, teachers, and staff. Should the need arise for distance learning in the future we will continue to look for ways to meet the social and emotional needs of our students and families. We understand the importance for students to be connected with one another and their teachers and will continue to be proactive in engaging students this year.

## **Emotional Connections for Students/Families While Distance Learning**

The healthiest way for students to interact with technology (especially screen media) is if an adult is physically or virtually present and assisting in the use of technology with the child. In order to support this healthy technology interaction, Sonrise teachers will engage with students regularly and adapt learning activities, virtual lessons, and remote social-emotional care to foster connectedness while away from the school environment.

Teachers will use a variety of different activities to engage students:

- Regular virtual instruction (depending on the grade level)
- Assignments in a variety of formats
- Daily virtual chapel and devotions for students and families
- Regular teacher virtual or video check-ins for individual or small groups
- Virtual class field trips, scavenger hunts, classroom/school mix-tapes and video creations, parent nights, and other efforts to promote and support school-student-family connections.
- Online classroom discussion boards and chats
- Virtual and – when possible – in-person acts of kindness, notes of gratitude and appreciation, and other efforts to remain connected to students and families.

## **Planning for Access to Technology and Learning Materials**

Due to our current technology program, Sonrise is well prepared in most grade levels for the possibility of distance learning during the school year. Students in 4th-8th grades already have their own laptop, which was independently purchased and owned. Students in 3rd grade will have the opportunity to borrow a school-owned Chromebook, which is the device used by our third graders during the school year. Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students will be given the opportunity to borrow a school-owned iPad, if needed, as available.

Work Cited:

Department of Public Health [Reopening Protocols K-12 Schools](#)

Department of Public Health [COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan](#)

\*Heritage Christian School [Return to Learn Plan](#)