

## — BACK TO CAMPUS PLAN —

WHILE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES MAY LOOK DIFFERENT IN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR, OUR MISSION REMAINS THE SAME.

HCC's mission is to achieve breakthroughs in academic excellence and character development by inspiring passion for inquiry and lifelong learning- utilizing hands-on discovery, real work application, collaboration and community; preparing each student for engagement in productive, thoughtful citizenship.

# BACK TO CAMPUS



Dear Hayden Canyon Charter School Parents,

The governing board met last night to discuss plans for the start of school in September and the impacts of COVID-19 on the educational environment in which we will open. We are excited to announce that the first day of school will be **Monday, September 21, 2020**, in our brand-new building!

The board has also decided that, as things now stand, Hayden Canyon Charter will open on September 21<sup>st</sup> with **all instruction occurring in person and on campus and with face masks being utilized wherever social distancing of six feet cannot be maintained**. There are currently no plans to offer an online-only option or to use alternating attendance schedules so long as students are able to attend in person with facial coverings.

We wish to emphasize that the COVID situation in our community is rapidly evolving, as are guidelines and recommendations from state and local agencies, and that our current plans for student instruction may quickly evolve as well. We ask for your understanding and patience in this regard. As you know, Kootenai County is presently under an order from the Panhandle Health District requiring face coverings in public places if social distancing cannot be maintained, and we are obligated to follow that order as written.

We feel fortunate that our incredible expeditionary model will allow students to spend a significant amount of instructional time outdoors, where social distancing can be maintained.

The decision to open with in-classroom learning and facial coverings was made with input from many of our parents, our teachers, and our Administrator, and with diligent consideration of local, state and federal recommendations, including the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We realize that this current plan may seem too restrictive to some and not restrictive enough to others. We have endeavored to find a balance that will feel “just right” to many of our students and families.

A more comprehensive On Campus Plan will be discussed at our next board meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Topics of discussion will include plans for: future exposures and positive tests, cleaning procedures, symptomatic students, contact tracing, and more. We encourage you to attend board meetings for additional information and an opportunity to comment. Information can be found on our website including the date, time, agenda, location, and login information for attending virtually.

Even in these challenging times, we believe that schools can continue to play a critical role in children’s academic, social-emotional wellbeing, language communication, social and interpersonal skills, and physical health and safety. We deeply appreciate our students and faculty, and we hope you share our excitement as we embark on this inaugural 20/21 school year in a beautiful “expeditionary” area and a BRAND-NEW building!

Sincerely,

HCC Board of Directors



# What Will the Year Look Like?

**Our plan addresses 3 stages of reopening.** These stages are based on the category of risk we are experiencing in the community and is determined by our local health district. Below are the 3 stages along with a description of the stages and method of instruction. To determine the most current stage, please visit: <https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/>.



**GREEN- Risk Level: (Minimal)** - Evidence of no cases or isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in a large communal setting such as health care facility, school, mass gathering.

**Form of Instruction:** In-person learning, buildings are open, social distance as practical, masks are encouraged for students and adults.



**YELLOW- Risk Level: (Moderate)** - Widespread community transmission with confirmed exposure in communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.

**Form of Instruction:** Building is open for all students in grades K-8. Students will wear masks when a distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained while on campus and on the school bus. A hybrid schedule (students attending A/B days) may be implemented by the board of directors should there be an upward trend of COVID cases.



**RED- Risk Level: (Substantial)**- Substantial and uncontrolled community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases in communal settings (health care facilities, schools, mass gatherings).

**Form of Instruction:** The level of community spread of COVID-19 *within our school building* will determine HCC's form of instruction. When community spread of COVID-19 increases within our school building:

- No school community spread- school is open to all students, masking will be required.
- Increase of school community spread- HCC may move to a Hybrid Model, allowing for physical distancing.
- High level of school community spread- HCC may be closed to students for extended period of time. Teachers work from classrooms when allowed, ALL students participate online from home.



# Health and Cleaning Protocols

## Protocols to Keep our Students and Staff Healthy:

### Health:

- ❖ Staff will explicitly teach and reinforce with students: social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, mask etiquette, stigma issues, etc.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings and in every classroom.
- ❖ Schools will post “Stop the Spread” information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms in hall, office, restrooms, workrooms, and classrooms.
- ❖ Limit/avoid sharing of materials/supplies.
- ❖ Plan is in place to allow for the immediate separation of students/staff who present COVID-19 symptoms at school to an identified isolation/screening room separate from the Nurse’s office.
- ❖ Send ill students home as soon as possible to avoid spread of infection.
- ❖ Close off all areas used by a sick person until cleaning and disinfection can occur.
- ❖ Encourage staff and families to self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19.
- ❖ A student or staff member exposed to a **confirmed** case of COVID-19 may return to school/work after 8 days as long as no symptoms are present.

### Distancing:

- ❖ Maintain physical distancing (3-6 ft when possible).
- ❖ Plexiglass panels will be used at some group tables to minimize risk.
- ❖ Limit/avoid mixing of student groups to reduce potential exposure.
- ❖ Face coverings (masks/shields) will be recommended/required as mandated where social distancing cannot be maintained. Extra face coverings available in all classrooms and in the front office.
- ❖ Outdoor learning opportunities will take place as often as possible.



# Providing a Safe Environment

## Protocols Continued...



### Disinfecting:

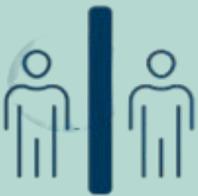
- ❖ Buildings will continue to be routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines with special focus on high traffic areas and following transition periods.
- ❖ All classrooms will be equipped with disinfecting supplies.
- ❖ Enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place throughout campus. The entirety of the campus will be cleaned and disinfected daily (with CDC/OSHA approved products) by HCC staff as well as contracted cleaning services. High-touch and high-traffic areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.

### Visitors:

- ❖ Due to physical distancing requirements, we are restricting non-essential visitors. All volunteers must be scheduled in the school office. Visitors who must come to campus will follow the health screening and safety protocols required of all students, faculty, and staff.

### Lunch:

- ❖ Students will eat in their classroom or outside as weather permits.



## Illness Response:

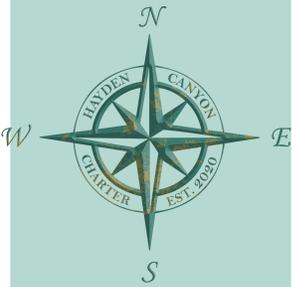
HCC understands that an integral part of reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our community and school is to identify those who may be infected with COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19. This requires all of us to work together to maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff.

### **Parents, Students, and Staff will adhere to the following procedures:**

- ❖ Do not attend or visit the school if you have been tested and confirmed to have COVID-19
- ❖ Notify HCC immediately of a positive test within your family and that your student(s) will be absent
- ❖ Students/Staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19, may return to school 10 days after their positive test date under the following conditions:
  - At least 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - Symptoms have improved

To ensure the health and safety of our students, **HCC will adhere to the following procedures** when an adult or student has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been in direct contact with someone with COVID-19, or has symptoms of COVID-19:

- ❖ HCC will coordinate with Panhandle Health District (PHD).
- ❖ Ill students will be sent home.
- ❖ HCC's Health Team, trained in Epidemiological Investigations, will respond and determine an appropriate course of action.
- ❖ The Team will work with PHD determine whether or not a building closure is needed.
- ❖ The Team will communicate with all affected individuals.
- ❖ Cleaning procedures will be implemented immediately.
- ❖ The Team will initiate disease surveillance and contact tracing to identify those at risk.
- ❖ Notices will be issued for self-isolation or quarantine.
- ❖ Return to school/reopening notices will be sent out.
- ❖ The Team will monitor confirmed cases and those who have been sent home ill.





## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PLAN? PLEASE CONTACT US:**

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