



2020-2021 Reopening Plan

Virginia Beach Friends School will be reopening the doors on August 26, 2020 for the 2020-2021 academic year. Our lush, wide-open campus, small class sizes, agility, and creativity enable us to accommodate our entire student body and faculty while maintaining the necessary physical distance.

Our COVID-19 Task Force comprised of Michael Barclay, Candice Jarden, Sandra Fink, Jason Weast, and Deedran Talbert are addressing all aspects of the opening of school in August, including:

Head of School, Michael Barclay:

"Welcome to Virginia Beach Friends School! We are excited to begin the 2020-21 academic year. This school year, like no other, will be a time of unprecedented change, experience, and opportunity. As the global, national, and our own local communities work to safely function in the midst of a global pandemic, VBFS's small, intimate size enables it to meet COVID-19 challenges in ways larger academic institutions cannot. You will see in our 2020-21 Reopening Plan, a comprehensive guide to reopening our program that meets all necessary health and safety guidelines, providing every Friends School student the best educational experience for the coming academic year."

- Prioritizing the health and safety of our entire Friends community.
- Following specific health precautions in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements.
- Collaborating with leaders of local independent schools from around Hampton Roads and Virginia while examining a variety of scenarios – and their implications – for the coming year. We are diligently preparing to begin the year together on campus. However, we will be prepared in the event we must shift to a combination of on-campus and distance teaching and learning.
- Planning that honors physical distancing and innovative space use. One of Virginia Beach Friends School's gifts is our unique and expansive campus – along with creative and resourceful educators who are adept at making the most of their classroom space.
- Continuing our studied approach to Virginia Beach Friends School's relationship-based distance learning model in the event the school must move from an in-person to distance learning model during the academic year. This includes the refinement of our work through careful analysis and ongoing professional development of best practices with regard to varying online and distance learning programs.
- Expanding our play-based and experiential learning program to reflect more learning outdoors, along with increasing materials and supplies to accommodate physical distancing measures, all while still ensuring the school's commitment to the Friends Testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship.



Below are the health-related and virus containment strategies Virginia Beach Friends School will have in place for the opening of school on August 26.

After detailed calculations, we have determined it is possible to accommodate our entire student body with the necessary physical distancing on our large, flexible campus. At the same time, we recognize that we may also be required by an executive order from the governor or a directive from public health officials to spend time off campus, or work simultaneously off and on campus. We are both committed and positioned to provide the maximum learning experience for children in the best possible environment in all of these scenarios.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SPACE USE



- Our task force has already mapped out capacity for students in each classroom and limited enrollment to reflect that capacity. Student desks will be positioned six-feet apart and non-essential items will be removed from the classroom.
- We have an abundance of outdoor space that we will be using for teaching and recess.
- Our hallways will be marked with social-distancing markers for students.

MINIMIZING EXPOSURE



- We will limit parent entry into the school during arrival and dismissal, asking all families to drop-off and pick-up their child in the car line (with the exception of our youngest students). Each student will enter their classroom through the class door, not the main doors to each building.
- Children will limit their travel around campus. We are re-organizing the campus so that each division stays within the same building, except for specials classes. When transitioning to those classes, classes will move one at a time through the hallway.
- The school is discouraging sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- We will provide in-person field trip experiences for students at all levels, utilizing local resources when available, appropriate, and safe.
- We will not be providing a hot lunch program for the academic year.



FACE COVERINGS

- Face coverings for children are challenging, and we will continue to investigate, evaluate, and implement face coverings when appropriate and necessary.
- Our focus for face coverings will be for students and faculty in instances when social distancing of at least six-feet apart is not feasible. For students who are two years old, face coverings are not required.

CLEANING AND HYGIENE



- We have hired a full-time cleaning staff to follow the highest standards of disinfection and routine cleaning of our spaces.
- Teachers will teach, supervise, and reinforce handwashing for all students throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer is readily available.
- We will limit the sharing of personal items and supplies.
- Teachers will increase the frequency of disinfection of any and all shared objects.



MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS

- All students and faculty will be required to have their temperature checked before entering the building each day.
- Anyone with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will not be allowed to enter the school and will be sent home immediately.



Structuring the Day in Each Division

Living with a highly contagious virus means that our routines will be disrupted to minimize spread until a treatment or vaccine can be fully implemented.

Under current distancing guidelines, our campus square footage allows for 100% student attendance with physical distancing. If restrictions are imposed and Virginia Beach Friends School moves to a Hybrid Learning Model, we will modify student attendance on campus to minimize risk of transmission.

We have given considerable attention to developing our school day schedules, prioritizing a consistent student experience which would seamlessly transfer from an on campus to hybrid (where students are simultaneously on and off campus) or full distance (RBD) scenario.



RBD=Relationship-Based Distance Learning

EARLY CHILDHOOD	ON CAMPUS	HYBRID	RBD
Morning Meeting	●	●	●
Literacy & Math Instruction	●	●	●
Exploration & Garden	●	●	
Spanish	●	●	●
Library	●	●	●
Music/ Art	●	●	●
PE	●	● *	●
Lunch	●	● *	
Recess	●	● *	
Morning Care/ After School Care	●	● *	

*for on campus students



Structuring the Day

RBD=Relationship-Based Distance Learning

LOWER SCHOOL	ON CAMPUS	HYBRID	RBD
English	●	●	●
Math	●	●	●
Science	●	●	●
Spanish	●	●	●
Social Studies	●	●	●
Art	●	●	●
Music	●	●	●
Library	●	●	●
Lunch/Recess	●	● *	
PE	●	●	●
Morning Care/ After School Care	●	● *	

**for on campus students*

MIDDLE SCHOOL & 12 th GRADE	ON CAMPUS	HYBRID	RBD
English	●	●	●
Math	●	●	●
Science	●	●	●
History	●	●	●
Music	●	●	●
Lunch/Free-Time	●	● *	
Art	●	●	●
Performing Arts	●	●	●
PE	●	●	●
Spanish	●	●	●
Electives	●	●	●

**for on campus students*



The Details

- If a student has a fever of 100.4 or over, the student will not be able to attend school until VBFS has a note from a pediatrician that the student can return to school and doesn't have COVID-19.
- If the student does have COVID-19, they will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Students will only be able to return to school with a doctor's note, stating they are free of symptoms.
- If a student is required to self-isolate, they will still be given the opportunity to participate in remote learning.
- Each employee at Virginia Beach Friends School will be trained in COVID-19 mitigation strategies through John Hopkins University.
- Individuals who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home. If an individual stays home, there will be no reprisal for practicing this encouraged policy.
- Individuals should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. fever, dry cough, loss of taste/smell, aches/pains).
- Individuals who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
- Individuals should not come to school, and they should notify school officials if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
- VBFS will immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
- Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
- VBFS has a designated isolation room to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms.
- VBFS requires that if a person is sick with COVID-19 and is at school, they contact a family member to safely transport them to their home or to a healthcare facility.
- VBFS will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use these areas until thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the area has been performed and remain closed for 72 hours.
- VBFS will inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self monitor for symptoms.
- VBFS will consider moving to a reduction of in-person classes if multiple individuals who are in the same groupings test positive for COVID-19, or if the Governor announces an Executive Order for a shutdown of Virginia independent schools.
- VBFS will move to a complete school closure if an outbreak of COVID-19 reaches multiple groupings throughout the school. VBFS will remain closed for 14 days while proper cleaning and disinfecting is happening.
- For community members who experience mental health issues during the pandemic, Dee Talbert, School Counselor, will be available to assist and counsel those individuals, if needed or requested by the person.

**Under the provision of Virginia Beach Friends School Religious Exemption with the Department of Education, if VBFS moves to a hybrid or RBD model, the Cottage, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten program will be allowed to continue, as long as it is safe to do so. We will keep these families informed on the decision-making process for these programs.*



VIRGINIA BEACH
FRIENDS SCHOOL

Knowledge. Character. Community.

2020-2021 Reopening Plan

Continued Communication and Updates

When new policies are created due to additional guidance from the Governor of Virginia, the updated plan will be sent electronically to all community members.



For specific COVID-19 questions or concerns, please contact Candice Jarden, Assistant Head of School & Chief Financial Officer at candice@vbfschool.org

All updates will be posted to the Friend's website page dedicated to our campus re-entry and distance learning:

<https://www.vbfschool.org/distance-learning-resource-hub/>