Westminster Christian School will promote engagement by fostering a loving, transformational, and excellence-driven culture.

Dear Westminster Families,

I have exciting news to share today but first, many thanks to Janet Kmiecik, Debbie Layne, Layla Schuld and Erik Schwartz as well as the team of teachers who have been working so hard to prepare our school for the fall, in light of Covid-19. We are praying God’s blessing on the work of our teachers, students, and families as we prepare for school to be conducted in person every day for all students who choose that option (details below in the Reopening Plan section) with grace and respect for those who are at-risk.

Covid-19 Survey Highlights
Before we dive into the plans for the fall, I want to share some of the results of the recent school survey regarding your reactions to Covid-19. The most revealing question about our school community involved face coverings. Taking the average results across elementary school, middle school, and high school, the survey showed 44% of the community did not support wearing face coverings, 24% were neutral on wearing face coverings, and 32% were in support of wearing face coverings. As a result of this information, we asked ourselves the question, “How do we engage a school divided on this topic?”

Proceeding with Humility, Peace, and Unity because of the Gospel
As we have talked through and prayed over how to move forward this fall, I encourage us all to remember why we are at Westminster Christian School. The gospel is central to our school and the families who attend it. We recognize the gospel’s provision for our eternity and recognize the current stress of coronavirus is not eternal, but we are! And in eternity, we will behold the fullness of our salvation and forget the current crisis at hand. What great hope! Philippians 2 charges us to not look to our own interest but look to the interests of others and to put on the mind of Christ who, in love, sacrificed his life on our behalf. Additionally, the gospel calls us in Ephesians 4 to walk in humility, gentleness, and patience. We are called to bear with one another in love and to eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

It is in the light of this glorious gospel that we present our plans to promote humility, peace and unity as we return to school this fall. Our aim is to provide your children with academic excellence that will continue to demonstrate love and provide a transformative experience for each student. Our chief goal is to meet with students in person all day, every day - our size makes this possible at Westminster when it is not for many other schools in the area. That being said, we are committed to the best practice of keeping our students safe, and we will modify or change any of our plans, as needed. This document explains a series of four plans we’ve developed which anticipate possible scenarios that we could face over the course of this year, for your reference.

Reopening Plan
We are going to start the school year under Plan 2 - Hybrid Flexible Learning - which includes in person classes every day for each student who chooses that option and online classes being run simultaneously so that students who choose distance learning will learn the same material at the same time. Students on campus can expect daily temperature/health screenings, enhanced cleaning measures, and additional hand sanitizing stations available. We will proceed with this plan unless new circumstances arise before the first day of school. We are also working on fleshing Plan 2 out with all the details you will need and will provide an FAQ document with further information by the end of next week.

Face Coverings
Face coverings will be required in the school building at all times (unless an underlying medical condition confirmed by a doctor’s note prohibits wearing a face covering). We consider face coverings to be a demonstration of grace to fellow students and staff. We understand a full-time mask policy is a concern for
some of our families. For those who are concerned about the adverse effects of wearing a mask all day, our plans to address that are as follows:

1. We are implementing “mask breaks” for our students throughout the day. These breaks would include snack time, lunch, outdoor instruction, recess (for elementary), outdoor specials, and other periodic breaks throughout the day.
2. We intend to work with families who have students with sensory or other health issues, so if you have any concerns with this policy update, please reach out to your program principal (Debbie Layne for elementary and middle school, Erik Schwartz for high school).

We are excited to welcome students back to Westminster on August 13, whether you choose our on campus or distance learning option! Take a look at our FAQ document, which is continually being updated.

Please know that you are important to us and we highly value your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. Thank you for your partnership and for entrusting us with your child’s education.

Blessings,

**Deb Hoon**
School Board President