



Carden Country School

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*"The purpose of education is to give children the tools they need in order to find Joy in life."
Mae Carden*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES REGARDING COVID-19

(8/6/20)

We must always strive to act in a way that advances our mission, so it must be incorporated in our approach to Covid-19.

MISSION

It is the mission and purpose of the Carden Country School to glorify God by providing a traditional, Christ-centered education that will nurture students to become spiritually minded, academically versed, socially balanced and equipped to make a positive impact in their community. In order to fulfill our mission, we agree to live according to the following:

CARDEN STANDARDS FOR LIVING AND LEARNING

- 1) We agree to respect the property, feelings, and ideas of others.
- 2) We agree to think before we speak, and to sort our thoughts and put into words only that which will contribute something positive to those around us.
- 3) We agree that orderly thinking is necessary for success, and that to be orderly on the inside, one must also be orderly on the outside.
- 4) We agree that courtesy will always rule our actions.
- 5) We agree that improvement is NOT optional.
- 6) We agree that caring for someone includes holding them to their highest level of performance and behavior until they have achieved the level of self-discipline necessary to hold themselves there.
- 7) We agree to always be appreciative of and loyal to our family.

AGREEMENTS SPECIFIC TO COVID-19

- 1) We agree that the health and safety of our staff and students is our first priority, and that their health and safety includes not only physical safety, but also spiritual, mental, social, and emotional health, as well as intellectual growth and development achieved through the integrity of a Carden education.
- 2) We agree that we want to preserve and grow in our children the joy that comes from their natural innocence and the playfulness of childhood and that we do not want them to live in fear.
- 3) We agree that life includes risks, and that different families naturally and normally evaluate and respond to different risks in different ways. We expect families to discuss their family risk profile and determine their own choices when discretion exists in these rules. We expect that students will not debate other students regarding individual family preferences.
- 4) We agree that in the summer of 2020, the situation regarding the exact nature and behavior of Covid-19 is not fully known, that there have already been several significant shifts and changes in both the science and the public policy of the disease, and that this fluid nature will likely continue for several more months or even years.
- 5) We agree that we align our policies with the most current guidelines as provided by the Washington State Department of Health. (WSDOH, August 4, 2020)

The Carden Country School is an interdenominational Christian school offering a traditional academic education in a Christian environment for highly capable children in grades K-8. Please call 842-6510 or 842-2721 for more information.

- 6) We agree that we will follow the OSPI's guidance which allows flexibility to adapt a concept and schedule that works best for our individual school community. (OSPI p. 13, June 8, 2020)
- 7) We agree that the School and both our own as well as all the other families in our community will strive to act out of a spirit of goodwill, and a desire to seek and serve God, and that we will continue to agree about this, even and especially when we disagree about science and public policy.
- 8) We agree and understand that the School will be diligent to uphold compliance with the Carden Country School's COVID policies.
- 9) We agree that it will not be possible for students to opt out of in-class instruction for distance learning.
- 10) We agree that we cannot eliminate the risk of Covid-19, but that we can reduce it by being flexible, consistent, and vigilant, to the best of our ability.
- 11) We agree that we must work together as a community and sometimes accept being inconvenienced, and sometimes accept bearing a little more risk than we may be perfectly comfortable with in order to sustain a healthy learning environment and return to campus.
- 12) We agree to be patient and flexible with others and to extend grace as information and public policies evolve during this pandemic.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AT CARDEN DURING COVID-19

(8/6/20)

BEFORE SCHOOL:

- 1) Parents must be vigilant about their own family's health. Our community relies on each of us keeping our own families healthy. Students with symptoms, especially coughing, sneezing, loss of taste or smell, or a fever of 100.4° or above, must not be brought to school.
- 2) All students will have their temperature taken by school staff (or designated parent volunteers) before exiting their vehicles in the parking lot each morning. If a student has a fever, they will remain in their vehicle and leave campus. Students may return to school after 72 hours of remaining fever free.
- 3) During this time we will be managing parents' and guests' visits to campus so to significantly reduce contact with those outside our direct campus community. While on the Carden Campus, parents and guests will follow all directions, policies and procedures that apply to Carden students and staff, including temperature checks, hand washing and face coverings.
- 4) Students returning from areas of high risk as defined by the CDC must complete a home quarantine of 14 days before returning to school.
- 5) All students will thoroughly wash their hands before they arrive at school, and will sanitize again before they enter the classroom.
- 6) We will institute a new Carden greeting in lieu of shaking hands. The Carden Greeting will be: With your hand over your heart, you will acknowledge the other person by looking them in the eye, and then give a slight nod of your head.
- 7) To avoid crowds on porches or in the library, teachers will ensure that their personal and corporate morning prayers are completed so that they may receive students into their classrooms 10 minutes before the official start of class.
- 8) Classrooms will be reconfigured so to allow for maximum distancing between individual student desks.

DURING SCHOOL:

- 1) Hand sanitizer will be in every classroom, and teachers will model and teach excellent hand washing skills. High touch surfaces, especially individual desks, group tables, and doorknobs will be wiped down several times per day.
- 2) While at school, students will wear (School sourced and provided) face coverings as part of their daily school uniform. (WSDOH, 8/4/20, pg. 3) Parents may provide other appropriate face coverings if their child needs a face covering other than a school provided mask.
- 3) During recess and outdoor activities, face coverings will not be required. We will continue to encourage play that naturally creates space.
- 4) There will be no "Indoor recess." Raincoats and galoshes must be available at school.
- 5) All students and staff will wash their hands upon returning from recess or PE.
- 6) Morning Opening will be held outside in the parking lot with adequate distancing, or individually in classrooms.
- 8) With the exception of Morning Opening and Recess, we will keep class groups and facilities as distinct and separate as possible.
- 9) In order to increase air ventilation, classroom windows will be kept open.

IN THE EVENT...:

- 1) If the State of Washington or Kitsap County Health Department orders schools in Washington/in Kitsap County/on Bainbridge Island to close to in-person instruction for health and safety reasons, Carden will immediately proceed to Distance Learning. If the BISD or NKSD chooses to go to 100% Distance Learning for reasons other than a direct order from health authorities, barring an authoritative government order regarding health and safety, the Carden Board and Staff continues to lean toward in-person instruction, allowing for #6, below.
- 2) If a staff member tests positive for Covid-19, that entire class will immediately proceed to distance learning for at least 14 days.
- 3) If any student tests positive for Covid-19, that entire class will immediately proceed to distance learning for at least 14 days.
- 4) If a household family member tests positive for Covid-19, staff or students within that household will quarantine for 14 days before returning to school.
- 5) It may be deemed necessary and prudent for certain parts of the school (upstairs, downstairs, or "across the porch") to proceed to distance learning given a positive test in that area.
- 6) It may be deemed necessary and prudent for the entire school to proceed to distance learning given a significant outbreak.
- 7) When students are sick, the most important thing for them to do is to rest and get better. Having established that, teachers will be ready and willing to send work home for asymptomatic students who are well enough to want to/be able to complete it.