



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

(8/9/21 SUPERSEDES 2/2/21 & PREVIOUS)

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. We understand that on March 26, 2021, Governor Inslee declared a mental health emergency for Washington's children caused by the pandemic and shutdown. (Emergency Proclamation 21.05.1)

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.

- 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 2021, as was true in the summer of 2020, there continue to be significant shifts and changes in the public policy of the virus and its variants, 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 mandates as provided by the Washington State Department of Health regarding K-12 schools. (WSDOH, 7/28/21, supersedes 1/20/21 and 8/4/20) ([K-12 Schools Requirements 2021-2022 \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/health/2021-2022))
- 6) We agree that we will follow WSDOH guidance which allows flexibility to adapt "layers of protection" and a concept and schedule that works best for our individual school community. (WSDOH, 7/28/21, supersedes 1/20/21 and 8/4/20)
- 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 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 remain on campus.
- 12) We agree to be patient and flexible with others and to extend grace as information and public policies evolve during this pandemic.
- 13) We agree that vaccination is strongly encouraged for all eligible people, but that the majority of students at Carden can not yet be vaccinated and neither the State of Washington nor Carden Country School require vaccinations against Covid.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AT CARDEN DURING COVID-19

(8/9/21 SUPERSEDES 2/2/21 & PREVIOUS)

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, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, or a fever of 100.4° or above, must not be brought to school and should consult with their family doctor immediately.
- 2) All students will continue to get a personal greeting in the parking lot before they exit their vehicles in the morning. This greeting may include, but not be limited to a temperature check and questions regarding their current health. Students that have a fever or can't say they are without Covid like symptoms should remain in their vehicles and leave campus. Students may return to school 24 hours after symptoms have fully resolved and have remained fever free without use of fever reducing medications.
 - 2.1) As the year progresses and the pandemic changes, if our community continues to show care and carefulness to not send sick children to school, we hope to forgo requiring parking lot health screenings.
- 3) During this time we will continue to manage parents' and guests' visits to campus in an effort 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) All students will thoroughly wash their hands before they arrive at school, and will sanitize again before or as they enter the classroom.
- 5) We will continue to use the new Carden greeting in lieu of shaking hands. The Carden Greeting: 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) As the guidance and mandates in this area change, we will, as allowed by the regulations and required as the situation warrants, reduce the distance between student desks so to allow all students to be in desks in their classroom.

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) multi layered cloth face coverings or other appropriate masks as part of their daily school uniform. (WSDOH, 7/28/21, pg. 1) Parents may provide other appropriate face coverings if their child needs a face covering other than a school provided mask.
 - 2.1.a) We are a school with uniforms so that clothing doesn't become a competition or a fashion show and thus a distraction from in class learning, therefore, the school will provide Carden cloth face coverings.
 - 2.1.b) However, given your own personal experience with your child, if another mask style or fabric will help your child's classroom learning and compliance, parents may provide other appropriate multi layered cloth or other face covering.
 - 2.1.c) Nevertheless, we require that alternate face covering be appropriate and not create a distraction to in-class learning. We recommend plain or subtle prints, with no advertising or slogans.
- 3) During recess and outdoor activities, face coverings will not be required. We will continue to encourage play that naturally creates space.
- 4) We will allow for limited "Indoor recess," with classroom doors and windows fully open. The vast majority of recess and all PE will be outdoors. Raincoats and galoshes must be available at school.
- 5) All students and staff will wash or sanitize their hands upon returning from recess or PE.
- 6) Morning Opening will continue to be held outside in the parking lot with adequate distancing.
- 8) With the exception of Morning Opening and Recess, we will strive to keep class groups and facilities relatively distinct and separate as possible.
- 9) In order to increase air ventilation, we will encourage classroom windows to be kept open except in cases of extreme weather. Nevertheless, students need to dress so that classrooms receive adequate ventilation with the outside air.

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) Regardless of vaccination status, any person who tests positive for Covid-19 must self isolate and report their result to Carden in order to protect others in our community. That person may return to school 1) 24 hours after symptoms have fully resolved, (including fever resolution without fever-reducing medication) AND 2) 10 days from the positive test or symptom onset. (See WSDOH guidance, p. 10, and [Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 :: Washington State Department of Health](#))
- 3) Any person who has been a close contact of anyone with a positive Covid test must quarantine, meaning they must stay home and away from others in case they were infected and are contagious. Quarantine becomes isolation if the person later tests positive or develops Covid symptoms.
 - 3.1) A close contact who develops Covid symptoms must quarantine for 14 days from symptom onset and get tested.
 - 3.2) A close contact who does not develop Covid symptoms may return to school 10 days after the exposure.
 - 3.3) A close contact who does not develop Covid symptoms and gets a negative test the 5th day after exposure may return to school 7 days after the exposure.
- 4) If a classroom teacher or student tests positive for Covid-19, that entire class will immediately proceed to distance learning for at least 7 days, but likely up to 14 days, per the above quarantine guidance.
- 5) If a household family member tests positive for Covid-19, staff or students within that household will be considered a close contact and follow the quarantine rules above.
- 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.

TRAVEL:

- 1) As of August 1, 2021, the CDC still recommends that any travel should be delayed until everyone in your party is fully vaccinated.
- 2) Any travel on a public common carrier requires masks at all times regardless of vaccination status, except for outside on a ferry.
- 2) Any international travel by any person regardless of vaccination status requires negative tests 3 days before and 3 days after travel, and unvaccinated people must self quarantine for at least a full 7 days after travel as well as monitor for symptoms.
- 3) Unvaccinated people who travel domestically are not Federally mandated to test or quarantine, but the CDC does recommend testing 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for at least a full 7 seven days as well as monitor for symptoms.
- 4) Carden students, staff and families must follow CDC recommendations as noted above.