

June 10, 2020

**RE: CSAGH SCHOOLS TO RE-OPEN ON-CAMPUS AND IN-PERSON ON AUGUST 18, 2020**

Dear CSAGH Community:

Over the past several months, the CSAGH community has been assured by our shared faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, buoyed by expressions of care within our school communities, and inspired by our persevering pursuit for quality Christian education. My heart is full of gratitude and admiration as I watch our CSAGH community respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with new levels of partnership and care for one another. **It is with great excitement that I share with you that CSAGH Schools – Harrisburg Christian School and West Shore Christian Academy – will re-open on-campus and in-person on Tuesday, August 18!**

Over the past several months, members of the Board, school leaders, faculty, and medical personnel have been engaged in a comprehensive scenario planning process to begin school *on-time, on-campus, and, in-person*. Significant parent input—via a recent survey—also significantly shaped our planning. Your overwhelming feedback was (1) return to campus in a responsible and reasonable way and (2) make modest modifications to the education that provides meaningful instruction and classroom engagement whether on or off campus. I am excited to share our plan with you.

**Promoting Student Health and Safety**

CSAGH schools will return to campus on August 18 in a *responsible and reasonable* manner. We consider our preparations to safely return to campus as individual bricks in a wall. Each mitigation strategy we employ helps us to better protect our students and staff from the transmission of COVID-19. As no one brick makes the wall, no one mitigation curbs our concerns. The collection of each increases the likelihood of reduced transmission. Some of the efforts (“bricks”) include:

- CSAGH is seeking to **hire two part-time nurses** to assist in monitoring community health and provide needed care through the 2020-2021 school year. Please pray the Lord provides us with two great people.
- Each campus has undergone—and will again before schools physically reopen—a **deep-cleaning**. Enhanced cleaning routines include, but are not limited to, more frequent wiping down of commonly touched surfaces and the spraying of classrooms each evening with hospital-grade disinfectant via an electrostatic spraying system.
- **New hand sanitizer stations** have been installed at each building entrance and at the door of each classroom. Handwashing and sanitization will be a regular part of student/staff daily practices. Staff and students will sanitize their hands upon entering the building, when entering or exiting a class, before and after lunch, before and after recess or PE, and before or after touching common use items (i.e. stapler, pencil sharpener, etc.). Students are recommended to cough/sneeze with a tissue or into their

elbow and to wash or sanitize their hands frequently, especially after coughing or sneezing.

- Classrooms are being reviewed to **increase physical distancing** between student desks. In addition, procedures are being developed to encourage the safe passing between classes and the safe gathering of students.
- While face masks assist in the reduction of aerosol transmission of harmful pathogens, they also significantly interfere with the learning environment. As a result, **wearing face masks is voluntary**. Students and staff who are immunocompromised or have a heightened concern may elect to wear a face mask. We will build and enforce a culture of acceptance about mask-wearing.
- As we always have in the past, but now more than ever, we are directing parents to keep their child home when they are sick or not feeling well (i.e. fever, body aches or chills, cough, sore throat, headache, loss of taste or smell, upset stomach, diarrhea, etc.). A temperature registering 100.4 or higher requires the student to stay home until fever-free for 48 hours. (This is a policy change from fever-free for 24 hours.)

### **Providing Flexible Learning Options**

What is becoming increasingly clear is that schools are going to have to provide instruction and student engagement both on and off campus throughout the 2020-2021 school year. We anticipate more frequent need for students and staff to be off campus because they or a family member are immunocompromised, are displaying unhealthy symptoms, or are uncomfortable being in a more public environment. As a result, CSAGH will offer off-campus, flexible learning options that build upon our distance learning strategies successfully employed this past spring. The focus of these options is on offering students the opportunity to participate in their classroom experience even if symptoms or caution necessitate their absence. The summer months will afford us the time to prepare for enhancements to our flexible learning options, and we will communicate more specifics about those options later this summer.

As we move closer to the physical opening of school on August 18, you will receive communication from our principals outlining in greater detail the responsible and reasonable practices and procedures under which we will return to campus. In addition, I want to invite you to a special **School Health and Safety Webinar** on Monday, June 15 at 7PM in which I will lead a panel discussion with several medical professionals who are part of our school community on the topic of "Returning to School." They will discuss such topics as *the impact of COVID-19 on children, reasonable and responsible ways of preventing transmission, and steps to take if your child becomes sick*. To participate, email [returntoschool@csagh.org](mailto:returntoschool@csagh.org) to receive a Zoom link and password. In addition, you can use the aforementioned email to submit a question that you desire to be answered during the webinar.

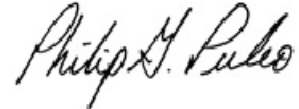
Posted to our school websites are responses to some of the questions we anticipated our families would have about our re-opening plans. I hope you will find that document helpful, but, as always, if you have questions that are not addressed there, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [phil.puleo@csagh.org](mailto:phil.puleo@csagh.org).

Also, we understand that some in our community continue to experience unexpected job loss or financial hardship that make paying tuition increasingly difficult. We are a community that cares for one another, and if you experience financial hardship, please send an email to

[wecare@csagh.org](mailto:wecare@csagh.org). Because of your generosity and love for one another and Christian education, we have some financial support dollars available for those in need.

I am thankful for your ongoing commitment and support to our students, faculty, and families as we collectively navigate this pandemic. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts as we further His kingdom through Christian education.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip G. Puleo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "G".

Philip G. Puleo, MBA  
Superintendent  
Christian School Association of Greater Harrisburg