

July 21, 2020

Dear CSAGH Community:

In just one month, CSAGH Schools (Harrisburg Christian School and West Shore Christian Academy) will physically re-open campus to begin the 2020-2021 school year in-person, five days a week, in a reasonable and responsible manner. We are excited to reunite students and teachers, to greet new students and families, and to continue our partnership in providing Christ-centered education that sharpens minds, deepens faith, and develops gifts as students are prepared to impact their world for Christ.

In June, we announced that HCS and WSCA would offer two learning options for the coming year: a primary in-person, on-campus option *and* a secondary flexible, remote option at home. I want to address both options briefly, but later today our principals will communicate additional details about these flexible learning options, designed to provide a top-notch educational experience whether a student is on or off campus.

On-Campus Learning Option: Returning to campus is the expressed preference of the entire CSAGH community. As I shared previously, we are taking many steps to promote the health and safety of our students and staff, to minimize the spread of COVID-19, and to, as much as possible, eliminate disruptions to the academic progress of our students. These steps include, but are not limited to, taking students' and staff temperatures upon arrival; requiring anyone with a temperature (100.4 or higher) or who doesn't feel well to remain at home; physically distancing student desks and seats in the cafeteria and in chapel; and increasing the frequency of hand-washing and hand sanitizing.

Recently, Governor Wolf announced the [Order of the Secretary of the PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#) which also applies to CSAGH schools. (For PDOH FAQs related to this order's effect on schools, click [here](#).) After several conversations with medical and legal professionals as well as government officials, we will be continuing to offer students, staff, and parents as much freedom regarding the wearing of face coverings as is legally possible. As part of the order, several exceptions that are applicable in our school setting have been provided. For instance, students are not required to wear face coverings where physical distancing is possible (e.g. in classrooms), when they are engaged in physical activity (e.g. recess), or if there are physical or mental health concerns with wearing a face covering. When physical distancing is not possible (e.g. moving from one place to another), we will be encouraging students to wear masks. Following the Wolf Administration's lead, however, we

will not be punitively enforcing the order nor will documentation be requested by the school if a student is not wearing a face covering.

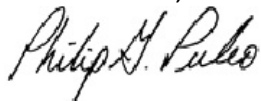
Essential visitors (e.g. parents picking up children) will continue to be permitted to enter our buildings provided they answer standard screening questions and have their temperature taken upon arrival. We will be following the same guidelines as explained above regarding visitors and the wearing of face coverings.

We continue to trust our families to make the wisest and most thoughtful decisions regarding the health of their children and our community in light of this most recent order. These days more than ever are an opportunity to demonstrate the respect and value we have for one another as a school community.

Flexible Learning Option (FLO): Our academic leadership team has been hard at work designing a Flexible Learning Option that enables students who need or desire to be off-campus to continue to have an active window into their classroom. The FLO is designed for two types of students: (1) Students who are at home for a relatively short duration, are physically able to participate in class, and who intend to return to in-person education as soon as possible and (2) Students who have elected to stay home, and, because of their own or their family's health concerns, have no intention of returning in-person in the foreseeable future. I am excited that we have developed a Flexible Learning Option (FLO) that provides our students a *daily WINDOW INTO THEIR CLASSROOM*. That "window" allows students to see their teacher, their classmates, and their course materials in real-time. MS/HS students will be able to access their "window" each class period, each day via Microsoft TEAMS. Elementary students will be able to access their teacher, their classmates, and their course materials in real-time four times a day for Bible, English/Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science/Social Studies. This Flexible Learning Option (FLO) allows those who need or desire to be off-campus complete access to the teacher they love, the classmates they enjoy, and the coursework they need. If you are interested in exploring the CSAGH Flexible Learning Option for your child(ren), please contact your school's principal by August 1.

We continue to prepare with much prayer and planning. I am excited to begin the journey of the 20-21 school year together. Together we will navigate the journey ahead with flexibility and grace. Appropriately so, our theme for this school year is **GRACE EXTENDED** (2 Corinthians 4:15). The Apostle Paul writes, *"For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God."* This is our theme, our focus, and our prayer as we journey together.

In His Service,



Philip G. Puleo, MBA

Superintendent

Christian School Association of Greater Harrisburg