



Re-Opening Plan for THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

Once again, The Unquowa School is planning to be back on campus for our first day of school, Wednesday, September 8th, following State of Connecticut Health Guidelines as applicable. Re-Opening Co-coordinators Tracy Capizzuto, our school nurse, will oversee all aspects of health-related procedures. Lloyd Mitchell, our Director of Operations, will oversee continued facility adaptations and improvements and cleaning procedures. Our Co-coordinators have worked with our senior leadership team and deans throughout the summer, as well as with key sub-committees, to continue to plan for fall with the goal of continuing a balance between mitigating disease transmission and protecting the quality of our academic programming and the social/emotional well-being of our students and staff.

A Safe Environment

1. Continued Health Protocols

- A larger and remotely-situated health office was built in the summer of 2020, to provide both adequate typical care for all students and the anticipated needs for identifying and isolating anyone who may become COVID positive. This office is adjacent to a well-marked, separate campus entrance/exit to allow for isolated patient pick-up.
- Clear and unbending messaging will continue to be communicated to all members of the community for the need to partner with us in our safety efforts by monitoring their own health and their children's health daily. Sick children and staff will be urged to stay home.
- We will continue to ask that community members who have traveled follow the current CDC and State of CT guidelines.
- Everyone will be required to wear masks when indoors regardless of vaccination status, social distancing, frequent handwashing and outdoor breaks will continue to be exercised as paramount to mitigation.
- Masking will NOT be required outdoors.

2. Cohorting Of Age Groups

- Students continue to spend most of their academic time with their grade alone.
- Designated entrances and lunch seating will be used by small cohorts of grades.
- Morning arrival and afternoon pick-up procedures will be communicated clearly to families and monitored by staff.
- After-care (OWLS) will continue to require monthly pre-registration.
- Advisors and homeroom teachers will keep an even closer eye on students' emotional needs and will guide them to our Dean of Students and our Director of Social/Emotional Wellness as needed.

3. Reconfiguration Of Physical Spaces

- Social distancing, with three feet between student work spaces continues to be our goal and, as has always been the case, thorough daily continuous high-touch point cleaning will continue to occur. Additional ventilation through HEPA filters continues and windows will be open when weather allows. Our HVAC system has historically had a high-grade filter system which meets current guideline upgrade recommendations.
- Lunch will return to the dining room, with the exception of Pre-K and kindergarten, who will have lunch in the Early Childhood wing. Three dining seatings will allow for 50 percent table capacity and students will dine in their cohorts, with time for thorough cleaning between seatings.
- P.E. will take place outdoors with the exception of inclement days, when alternate activities will take place in the gym.

4. Clear Guidelines And Procedures For Maintaining A Healthy Environment

- All faculty, staff and students, including early childhood, will be asked to wear masks indoors, with adequate outdoor mask breaks during the day.
- Staff will welcome students at their respective entrances each morning with available hand-sanitizer to assure starting the day as germ-free as possible, and frequent handwashing breaks will occur throughout the day. Hands-free towel dispensers will be installed in bathrooms and additional hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed throughout the school to supplement existing dispensers.
- As mentioned above, classrooms will be set up to physically distance students with at least three feet of space between working students whenever possible and six feet or more for choral classes.
- All visitors, including tutors, guest speakers and parents will continue to be limited and require scheduling, and remote options for tutors and guest speakers will be provided.
- The Unquowa School will offer a hybrid adult visitor policy for the 2021-22 school year. Admissions will offer in-person tours for families who can either show proof of vaccination or negative COVID testing. We will offer virtual tours and interviews for families whose comfort level or lack of vaccination prohibit them from the in-person admissions experience.
- This policy will apply as well to all adults entering the school for indoor appointments, meetings and events as long as current mandates around COVID-19 remain.

Remote Learning

We will continue to provide remote learning for community members who are required to quarantine for COVID-related reasons.

The Traditions Of Our Unique, Welcoming Community

From things like *The Gator*, *Pen and Paper*, *UnquowaZine*, *Be the Change*, *Voices of Change* and *IDEA* conversations, to our *Weekly Assemblies* and the *40th Anniversary of Winter Festival*, we miraculously worked together to make them all happen over the 2020-21 School year, and we will do the same for the school year to come. Fall assemblies will take place outside when weather permits and parents will be welcome. The format for major events and performances will be determined as the year progresses.

Fortunately, current outdoor guidelines mean that FAA athletics, including pre-season training can take place. We will also schedule times for all students to visit campus in late August by cohort so that they and their families will continue to feel comfortable with the procedures that will continue this year to ensure a safe and relaxed school environment.

The following guidelines were used as original resources for our planning and continue to be a source of such: **The CTK-12 Guidelines for Re-Opening School**, **The CAIS Guidelines for Re-Opening School**, **The CDC Guidelines**, **The CT DPH Guidelines**, **The OEC Guidelines** and **The American Pediatrics Recommendations**.

This report has last been updated on September 17, 2021 and will be updated as needed throughout the 2021-2022 School Year

The Future is in Our Care

