



2021-2022

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

### **Air Quality**

- The Academy continues to make upgrades to our HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality: including maintaining, replacing, and upgrading systems.

### **Cleaning**

- Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and maintenance protocols that include:
  - Hand Sanitizer Stations
  - Endura Antimicrobial Coatings
  - i Wave Air Purifiers
- Hands-on classrooms will undergo cleaning after every class period with an EPA-approved disinfectant.

### **Health Screening Students and Staff**

- Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student [wellness check](#) prior to sending student(s) to school.
- Staff will be required to conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check. Documentation will be submitted using MI Symptoms.

### **Hygiene**

- Adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors will be provided (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be taught and reinforced.

### **Instruction**

- The Academy will provide in-person instruction.
- The Academy will provide educational support for students and families who are impacted by isolation and quarantine by utilizing Schoology, a learning management system (LMS), where everything (grades, attendance, resources, etc.) is available on one platform.

- The Academy will provide educational technology for students and staff to improve instruction and implementation of the curriculum.

### **Staffing**

- The Academy will hire new staff to reduce class sizes to allow for social distancing.
- The Academy will provide retention bonuses to existing highly-qualified staff members to maintain high-quality instruction and continuity of services.

### **Social-Emotional Learning**

- The Academy will provide social-emotional support for student's and families needs through evidence-based curriculum and professional development.
- All students and staff will have access to two, on-site, professional mental health counselors.

### **Isolation and Quarantine**

- The Academy will work with the HDNWM to support case investigation and the contact tracing process.
- Isolation and quarantine will adhere to local public health requirements and operating procedures.
- Close contact is defined as individuals who were within 3 feet of an infected individual for more than 15 minutes if both the infected individual and the exposed individual were correctly wearing masks or individuals who were within 6 feet of an infected individual for more than 15 minutes if both the infected individual and the exposed individual were not wearing masks.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID unless they have symptoms.
- Individuals who are not vaccinated will need to be quarantined for 10 days after contact with someone who had COVID unless they had a confirmed positive case of COVID within 3 months (and show no symptoms).

### **Masks**

- All staff and DK-12 students will be required to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status, at all times except for mealtime, recess, and/or mask breaks until the public health order has expired.

### **Social Distancing**

- Social distancing measures will continue, to the greatest extent feasible.

### **Testing**

- COVID testing of students or staff will not be required unless mandated by a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.

### **Vaccinations**

- The CDC recommends vaccinations to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

### **Visitors**

- Access to the building will not be permitted.

Our commitment to ALL students remains clear for the 2021-22 school year:

- Every student will have access to grade-level instruction and high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials.
- Every student's academic and social-emotional needs will be addressed through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

## Supporting Documents:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#)
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [Health Department of Northwest Michigan Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) School Toolkit](#)
- [CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools](#)
- [CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)
- [Science Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2](#)

*This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants and availability of vaccination for younger age groups. Any changes in the plan due to updates in the CDC status will be communicated via email and posted on the Academy's website. Adjustments in protocols will be determined by the school administration. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, adjustments in mitigation measures will take place on Mondays.*