

South Charlotte Baptist Academy
“Return to Learn!”
2020/2021

The Process

South Charlotte Baptist Academy has been working diligently to develop a re-entry strategy that allows for flexibility, transparency and prioritizes the health and safety of our staff and students. South Charlotte Baptist Academy has sought guidance from the CDC, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Association of American Christian Schools, the North Carolina Christian School Association, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Christian Law Association, and other trusted medical organizations.

It is important to keep in mind that, while we have taken into consideration the recommendations of the State of North Carolina regarding public schools; as a private, independent school (SCBA is a ministry of South Charlotte Baptist Church.) we are not obligated to abide by the State’s recommendations.

It should also be understood that these guidelines can be changed at any time. However, SCBA will do its best to communicate any changes in a timely fashion.

The Foundation

One church had the following message displayed on their outdoor sign: ***“Saying our prayers; Listening to scientists.”*** The question then, would be, ***“Which scientists should we listen to?”***

There has been so much conflicting information published regarding COVID-19. In fact, you will find that there is much about COVID-19 that scientists *do not know*. We feel that there has been a lot of information, regarding COVID-19, that has only served to produce fear in the general public. However, there are some things, regarding COVID-19, that most are confident about and agree upon:

- **Children are *less likely* to become sick with COVID-19.**
- **Children are *less likely*, than adults, to spread COVID-19.**
- ***Most* children appear to have asymptomatic [showing no symptoms], mild, or moderate disease and recover within one to two weeks.**

It is not our desire to tell anyone ***who*** they should listen to as it relates to COVID-19, but we do well to caution you about ***what*** you allow your mind to dwell upon.

“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.” (Proverbs 21:31)

We should prepare and take the necessary precautions to protect our health and safety, but we must also understand that, ultimately, *our safety is from the Lord*. Because of that Biblical truth we should put our trust in God!

“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” Psalm 56:3

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

During these uncertain times, it would be our encouragement for you to make the conscious choice to allow your mind to meditate upon God’s Word. Take a verse of Scripture, commit it to memory, and then, throughout your day mentally “chew on it” especially when you find yourself becoming fearful. If you have never committed Scripture to memory, we would suggest the following verses to start with:

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:” Isaiah 26:34

Everyone is asked and encouraged to constantly pray that God would physically protect the staff, students and families of South Charlotte Baptist Academy during this upcoming school year.

On Campus Learning

The administration of SCBA is preparing for *on campus* school operations to resume in the fall of 2020. SCBA will follow specific health precautions which will be in accordance with our local, state, and federal requirements *to the best of our ability*.

- **School Orientations will be held virtually (via Zoom) the week before classes begin.**
- Extended School Day (ESD) will be offered with some changes.
 - ESD will begin at 7:30 AM. Students in ESD must be picked up by no later than 5 PM each evening.
 - ESD must be “scheduled” ahead of time.
 - ESD for elementary students will only be offered to those who have signed up for ESD on a full-time basis.
- Drop-off and pick-up times will change *slightly*. Students may be dropped off between 8 AM and 8:30 AM each morning and students may be picked up between 3:15 PM and 4:00 PM each afternoon. (Classes will begin at 8:30 AM and will conclude at 3:15 PM.) Parents will not be allowed to walk their child(ren) into the school building. Parents should remain in their vehicles and use the drop-off and pick-up lines only.

Physical

To help us protect the health of our staff and students, strategies are being developed in the following areas (including but not limited to):

- *In the coming school year, families will truly be our “first line of defense” in keeping our staff and students healthy.*
 - Families should monitor and limit their children’s exposure to others during the school year to limit.
 - Families will be expected to self-evaluate themselves and their students on a regular basis. *(Please see the “Symptom Screening Checklist” at the end of this document.)*
 - It would be wise for families to develop the habit of checking their children’s temperatures **before** bringing them to school.
 - Families should prepare a “plan” in the event that their child must be quarantined or in the event that a switch to SCBA Mobile is needed.
- Temperature checks will be required, on a daily basis, for students and staff as they arrive.
- *If a student becomes sick or begins to exhibit symptoms during the school day, they will immediately be isolated, and a parent/guardian will be contacted. It will be expected that the student be picked up as soon as possible. Parent/guardian should follow the instructions in the “Returning to School” section at the end of this document.*
- Each class will be isolated (to the greatest extent possible) from other classes during the school day.
 - Each class will utilize a different entrance to their classroom.
 - Classes will eat lunch in their classrooms instead of the Great room.
 - Classes will have separate times on the playground (weather permitting).
 - Chapel services will be held virtually in each classroom.
- *As has already been our practice*, teachers will, among other things, teach the children to frequently wash their hands (most classrooms are equipped with sinks), keep their hands from their mouth and eyes, cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of their elbow, and refrain from physical contact with other children.
- Face Coverings
 - Teachers & Staff will wear face coverings throughout the day, *when it is feasible and necessary to do so*. Face coverings do not interfere with teaching and teachers will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching. They will be encouraged, though, to wear face coverings when they are closely interacting with the students in their class in a one-on-one situation.
 - Students below 5th grade will not be required to wear face coverings.
 - Students 5th grade and above will be asked to bring a face covering to school each day and to wear it as necessary. (Face coverings should be of one solid color.)
- Parents and visitors *will not* be allowed inside of the Academy buildings unless prior arrangements have been made. If parents have business that needs to be taken care of

in the Academy office, they should call ahead of time to schedule an appointment. These appointments should *not* correspond with either morning drop off or afternoon pick up.

- SCBA has purchased a Clorox Total 360 disinfecting machine which will allow us to do a much more thorough job of cleaning the classrooms on a daily basis. Although this machine has been purchased, because of demand, SCBA will not be able to take possession of this machine until possibly the end of September. In the meantime, staff and faculty will be focusing attention on daily cleaning of each classroom

Preparing for Interruptions

We feel that SCBA did an excellent job transitioning to virtual learning during the end of this past year. We are preparing for the possibility of interruptions to on campus learning. In the event an interruption of physical operations occurs, a shift to SCBA Mobile will happen immediately. These interruptions might affect the entire school, or they may only affect a class at a time.

- At the beginning of the year each student (K4 and above) will be assigned a username and password for ABEKA online.
- SCBA Mobile will follow the basic procedures that were followed last year.
- Should a child need to be quarantined during the school year, that child would shift to SCBA Mobile for the time of their quarantine.

Digital Platforms

Most of the digital platforms below will be used only in the event of an interruption to on campus learning.

- **FACTS** – For many years, FACTS (formerly RenWeb) has been the Student Information System (SIS) that has been utilized by SCBA. Through “ParentsWeb” parents can access grades, calendars, place lunch orders, and more! *Before the school year begins, parents should verify with the Academy office that they have a username and password and that they are able to successfully access “ParentsWeb.”*
- **Zoom** – Zoom is a video conferencing platform that SCBA used to allow teachers and students to meet on a weekly basis.
- **Seesaw** – SeeSaw will be your online platform for viewing video for your student’s teachers, uploading student’s work, etc. Questions about SeeSaw should be directed to your child’s teacher.
- **ABEKA** – Should the need arise, students (K4 and above) will be able to access their classes via www.abeka.com.

Symptom Screening Checklist *(The following checklist was prepared by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.)*

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should not be at school!

- 1. Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?**

Yes: The child should not be at school. The child can return 14 days after the last time he or she had close contact with someone with COVID-19, or as listed below in the section titled, "Returning to School."

No: The child can be at school if the child is not experiencing symptoms.

- 2. Does your child have any of the following symptoms:**
 - a. Fever
 - b. Chills
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. New cough
 - e. New loss of taste or smell

If a child has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and the family member should call the child's health care provider.

- 3. Since they were last at school, have your child been diagnosed with COVID-19?**

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test, their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they meet the criteria in the section titled, "Returning to School."

Returning to School *(The following procedures were prepared by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.)*

A child can return to school when a family member can ensure that they can answer YES to ALL three of the following questions:

- Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms?
- Has it been at least 3 days since the child had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
- Has it been at least 3 days since the child's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

If a child has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.

If a child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

If a child has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they should remain out of school for 14 days since the last known contact, unless they test positive. In which case, criteria above would apply. They must complete the full days of quarantine even if they test negative.