



Ocone Christian Academy
Return to Learn Plan
2021-2022

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Background

Fulfilling the mission of Oconee Christian Academy (OCA) to partner with parents to provide a Biblically faithful, academically excellent education for our students will always be the aim of OCA teachers and staff. Above all else we acknowledge that God is sovereign and in control of all things. God:

- Is above all things and before all things. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He is present everywhere (**Revelation 21:6**).
- Created all things and holds all things together, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible (**Colossians 1:16**).
- Knows all things past, present, and future. There is no limit to His knowledge, for God knows everything completely before it even happens (**Romans 11:33**).
- Can do all things and accomplish all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him, or impossible with Him (**Jeremiah 32:17**).
- God is in control of all things and rules over all things. He has power and authority over nature, earthly kings, history, angels, and demons. (**Psalms 103:19**).

We also acknowledge that COVID-19 caused major disruptions in our lives including the delivery of educational services to students during the 2019-2020 school year. We also recognize as difficult as the transition to continuous learning was, the possibility exists that we may experience similar disruptions in the 2021-22 academic school year. We desire to continually improve on our delivery efforts in order to ensure continuity of teaching and learning regardless of what public health emergencies or other disruptions may be encountered in the future.

This Return to Learn Plan has been designed to assist OCA in planning for, and delivering, instruction to students. It is designed to address continuous learning efforts, whether in-person or virtually. It is also designed to address issues related to the health and safety of our students, their families, and our faculty and staff; to describe how communication of information to key stakeholders will occur.

More than anything, our desire is to ensure the health and safety of every individual who enters our building. This desire is driven by a love for our students, school families, and staff. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment in the Law was, he answered in Matthew 22:37-39, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” Loving our neighbors during a global pandemic means we will have to do things differently. Keeping our distance from one another, limiting visitors in the building, even wearing masks as needed – all of these are extraordinary actions that show love, care, and compassion for our neighbors. Our desire is to demonstrate that love in all that we do.

This document is intended to address a variety of issues that may come our way at Oconee Christian Academy this school year. It is modeled and organized based on guidance from the SC Association of Christian Schools (SCACS).

Oconee Christian Academy's Return to Learn document is organized according to the following categories:

- Leadership
- Infrastructure
- Health and Safety on Campus
- Instruction
- Social/Emotional Learning
- Equity

Guiding Principles

- Uphold and continue to deliver on the Mission of Oconee Christian Academy
- Provide a safe learning environment for students and staff
- Ensure continuous learning through a variety of potential teaching and learning scenarios
- On-Campus classes
- Distance Learning via Google classroom platform
- Ensure any distance learning schedule that is implemented addresses issues of access and equity and is supportive of family and student needs and scheduling
- Where possible, provide learning pathways for students with unique learning needs (e.g., student or family health issues)

Tiered Operating System

OCA will operate on a tiered operating system. Conditions for the school’s operating status and other health and safety procedures will be continually monitored and changes communicated to all families. The table below outlines OCA’s operating levels and what to expect at each of those levels. *As with all things related to the pandemic, this list is not exhaustive and is subject to change.* Additionally, there may be state or local requirements for schools that supersede our site-specific operating system.

X=Active COVID cases

GREEN Status No Local Outbreaks	YELLOW Status $0 < x \leq 8\%$	ORANGE Status $8\% < x \leq 10\%$	RED Status $x > 10\%$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor students and staff for symptoms at school • Evaluate students and staff who are at increased risk of illness and develop plans (as appropriate) for them to continue to work or receive educational services if there is moderate levels of COVID- 19 transmission or impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents of children at increased risk for illness should discuss with their health care provider whether those students should stay home in case of school or community spread. ○ Staff at increased risk for severe illness should have a plan to stay home if there are school-based cases or community spread. • Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick and notify school administrators of illness • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. • Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available – and used frequently – in the building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue cleaning, disinfecting and hand hygiene efforts • Implement social distancing measures • Health checks (e.g., temperature screens upon entering the building and respiratory symptom screening) of students, staff, and visitors • Required use of PPE for staff and students in common areas of the building (e.g., hallways, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students at increased risk of severe illness should consider implementing individual plans for distance learning • School will be cleaned and disinfected prior to re-entry of staff/students • Cancellation or rescheduling of extracurricular activities as needed • Alter schedules to reduce mixing • Limit inter-school interactions • Temporary distance learning for some classes (if direct exposure to a class occurs) while other classes (not directly impacted) occupy the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader, longer-term school closure, either as a preventive measure, because of staff and/or student absenteeism, or due to a state/local mandate. • Cancellation, change, or rescheduling of school- associated gatherings (e.g., concerts, Association meetings, etc.) • Partial or entire implementation of distance learning protocols as needed

1. LEADERSHIP

In order to build a *Return to Learn* plan that addresses the necessary issues related to instruction, teaching, and learning; health and safety; communication; and other associated needs, the following persons served on the initial Task Forces to provide input, draft, and finalize the plan.

Faculty and Staff

Scott Glenn, HS Teacher
Jenny Keaton HS Teacher
Beth Cooper, Middle School
Teacher
Jim Watson, 3rd Grade Teacher
Greyson Williams, HS Teacher
Dr. Joe Chapa, Distance Learning Coordinator

Parents and Community Stakeholders

Dana Jones, Parent/OCA Board Member
Jennifer Woodring, Parent/OCA Athletic
Director
Charleen Price, 5th Grade Teacher/Parent
Lara Strickland, Former Librarian/Elem
Computers/STEM
Dwaina Brooks, Parent
April Burgess, Parent/Former OCA Nurse/Prisma
Health Nurse/OCA Health & Safety Coordinator

School Leadership

Pamela Edgar-Crain, Principal
Dean Bare, Director Emeritus
Eric W. Johnson, Head of School

Communication Plan

Communication – both internally and externally – will be very important. We desire to communicate the most accurate information related to school operations, health and safety, and other pertinent health and safety information to families, students, and staff on a regular basis. We understand both the need to provide relevant information but also the need to not inundate staff and families with too much information.

School staff will receive internal communications as needed related to pertinent COVID-19 issues (e.g., information from state and local health officials, school operations, building closure, etc.). These messages will come from either the Head of School or the Principal with the ***subject line: COVID-19 Update.***

OCA families will receive regular updates on COVID-19 issues as they occur. Additional urgent information (e.g., steps at promoting health and safety, event cancellations, school closure notice, etc.) will occur on an as needed basis via email and/or text (Parent Alert) under the ***subject line:***

COVID-19 Update.

Additionally, teachers will be communicating regularly with parents regarding classroom activities, social distancing, cough and sneeze protections, and any other issues that arise within the classroom through their regular newsletters.

Expect that communications from the school will intensify during any direct infection of students, classroom, or school closure. We will make every attempt to limit these communications but also want to ensure families are aware of all necessary information.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been, and will continue to be, fluid. Due to this fact, our planning assumes that guidance and current and future regulations and safety measures may change over time. As changes occur, it is likely our plans will also need to change. This document attempts to address the most common and likely scenarios that may occur due to COVID-19; however, in the event unforeseen circumstances warrant, we will address those issues and relay information to the school community in the most-timely manner possible.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE

School Calendar/Schedule Changes

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, no school calendar or schedule changes have been necessary. That may be subject to change and would be communicated to the school community.

Attendance and Grading (during any Distance Learning)

Our desire for the 2021-2022 school year is to occupy the building and provide direct, face-to-face instruction to the greatest extent possible, in the safest way possible. In the event direct instruction cannot occur due to a COVID-19 school closure, OCA will make the switch to Distance Learning. Because the State of SC has mandated all schools – public and accredited non-public schools – must have a learning plan that includes required student learning, OCA will require student attendance and participation during any distance learning instruction and maintain our standard grading procedures during distance learning.

Our goal for any instructional time outside the building is for real, Biblical teaching and learning to occur, with real results and accountability. Teachers will provide assignments, issue grades, monitor student progress, take attendance, and engage with students regularly during learning periods via Google Classroom.

While attendance is expected during learning, we also know that accommodating family needs and schedules during learning can be complicated. As mentioned in our plan overview, grace and love will guide our actions; as such, attendance will not be used as a criterion for grading in any class if distance learning becomes necessary. If attendance becomes challenging, we will communicate and work with families to determine how best to support student(s) and family needs.

Teacher Professional Development

Teachers will use a variety of different technology tools and communication methods if distance learning becomes a reality. To streamline our efforts and provide a central student-learning tool

across all grades, OCA is currently utilizing a Google Classroom learning environment. Teachers have engaged in professional development activities to utilize the Google platform (both for in-school use and potential learning applications).

Teachers are asked to review current curriculum guides and determine priority content and standards that are best taught face-to-face and in-person as well as those content standards that are critical for continued student success. Additionally, grade level teachers will work collaboratively with their colleagues in the grade above to review content that may be missed due to COVID-19 school closures.

School Lunch Program

Heat up MUST have your student's name clearly visible on the package and the time to heat is indicated (not more than 3 minutes). Please provide appropriate serving dishes for heat-up items such as Ramen noodles or canned food items that do not come in microwavable containers. No glass dishes, please.

Two lunch periods have been in place at OCA and will continue unless it is deemed necessary to move to three lunch periods.

3. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of our students and staff are primary concerns for Oconee Christian Academy. While it is impossible to plan for all potential scenarios that could take place due to COVID-19 (or other similar emergency situation), this section outlines current planned procedures that will govern school operations while occupying the school building.

OCA is committed to using all available resources in our efforts to protect students and staff including, but not limited to, resources from the office of the Oconee County Health Dept, SC's Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Guidance and recommendations from these agencies will continue to inform OCA's operations and efforts.

Determining When to Close the Building

During the 2019-20 school year, state leaders made decisions about school closures outside of OCA's control. Such closures may occur again; however, in the 2021-2022 school year, state governors and local leaders are less likely to make such blanket decisions unless the public's health and safety are at immediate risk. Decisions on school closure related to COVID-19 will need to be made on more localized issues and data. OCA will work with our local and state health departments in making any decisions about short- and long-term school closures.

In order for OCA to operate effectively in what will likely be a quickly evolving landscape, guiding principles on school closure and a Tiered Operating Structure have been established (page 5). Moving from one level to the next will be evaluated by the OCA Board and School Leadership while taking into consideration information shared by county and state health officials. Per our Tiered Operating System included in this plan, the Head of School will make all final decisions regarding moving between operating levels – including school closure – and communicate them to parents and staff through our communication channels.

Planning for Health and Safety of Individuals (when in the building)

Teachers and staff will spend a significant portion of our return to school, discussing and reinforcing appropriate protective and preventative behaviors (e.g., social distancing, sneeze and cough protection, etc.) to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. OCA staff will use the guidelines outlined below to limit the spread and potential infection in our school community.

Home Monitoring and Self-Reporting. The most effective way to prevent the spread of any virus is to isolate infected individuals. Monitoring your own children's health and taking preventative measures at home is the first and most important step in fighting the spread of COVID-19.

If your **child has a fever of 99.5 or greater, please do not send them to school**. All students and staff will be temperature scanned before entering the building when operating in YELLOW or higher status per the Tiered Operating System. As has been done in the past, we will notify parents of elevated temperatures (99.5 or greater) and not allow anyone to enter the building with a temperature of **99.5** or greater.

Additionally, people with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild to severe. If staff or students display any of the CDC's COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend school.

Symptoms are, but not limited to:

- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Positive COVID-19 test results or COVID-19 Symptoms

- Staff and Students are required to stay at home while showing any signs of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff and Students should isolate until 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms AND have been fever-free **without** medication for 24 hours.
- Families of anyone who may have been exposed to the person who had symptoms or a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be notified while maintaining the privacy of that person.
- For individuals exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19 at school, they are allowed to stay in school with a mask on (for 7 calendar days) and must have their temperature checked twice a day, (once before school, and the second time after lunch). If the individual develops symptoms, they must go home.
- For exposure outside of the school the general quarantine rules apply which is 10 days

quarantine, or test on day 5 and return to school upon receiving a negative Covid-19 test result and supplying OCA with the documentation of the negative result. *The reason behind this rationale is that school exposure is more “mild” exposure, (depending on seating, mask usage, how many classes they had together, etc.), compared to exposure at home by a parent or sibling where you have constant close exposure and have more of a risk of spreading.

- Teachers will continue to provide instruction while absent from the classroom when symptoms do not interfere with performance.
- Students will continue to engage and learn through virtual learning via Google Classroom when symptoms do not interfere with performance.
- Absences due to COVID-19 infection, exposure, or symptoms will be excused, but students are required to make up work and keep up with work when able. Students who join via Google Meet for classroom instruction will be counted present for that class.

High Risk Students. Parents must submit a letter via email to the student’s teachers copied to the school Receptionist and the Head of School stating that their student is high risk, listing the reasons for this determination. Please include any special instructions regarding classroom activities. It is the responsibility of the parent to communicate with the teacher about planned activities. High risk students will be given seating arrangements that limit contact with others as much as possible.

In the event that the teacher is conducting a group activity, high risk students will be allowed to work alone or will be offered an alternative assignment so as to limit contact with others when possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). There is no doubt that PPE has proven effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19. We also recognize that PPE can present challenges to students and teachers in the educational environment. Balancing between safety and effective instruction is challenging and we want to do our best to ensure both.

Upon reaching Yellow status in our Tiered Operating System. The following PPE will be in place.

- **OCA teachers and staff** are expected to wear facemasks and/or face shields inside the building in *common areas* during school hours. Once staff are in their respective work areas (teachers = classrooms, administration = office, etc.) staff may remove their masks/shields if they choose. Teachers may choose to utilize facemasks or face shields while in their respective classrooms.
- **Students** should plan on having a facemask with them each day and available at all times. Students are strongly encouraged to wear facemasks/face shields and are *required* to do so in the hallways during class changes. Students will also be **required** to wear masks during small group work or other occasions where social distancing isn’t possible such as safety drills e.g., tornado drills.
- **Visitors/parents** in the building (volunteers, UPS/FedEx deliveries, maintenance workers, etc.) *will be required* to wear facemasks while in the building.

OCA will have face masks available for visitors who enter the building if needed.

Social Distancing. In addition to PPE, we know that distancing from one another helps reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Administration, faculty, staff, and students will be encouraged and reminded to appropriately distance in common areas (e.g., hallways, restrooms, etc.). Teachers and staff will remind students in common areas as needed.

Classroom desks will be spaced as much as the physical space of our classrooms permits to encourage distancing of students.

Should it become necessary, elementary classroom teachers will move to staggered morning and lunch recesses to reduce student interaction between classrooms and reduce potential exposure from student to student. This plan could include rotating playground areas for each class to utilize during recess.

Walking to and from specials, recesses, etc. students will maintain appropriate distance from one another. Recess and specials (co-curricular classes) lengths may be adjusted to allow for additional time necessary for distancing in hallways, surface disinfecting, and handwashing.

Hand washing/sanitizing, sneeze, face-touching precautions. Some of the most effective measures related to combatting the spread of COVID-19 are precautionary. Staff will work to ensure the following safety procedures are taught and used throughout the building. Planned activities include:

- Providing instruction and signage on how to properly wash hands and use hand sanitizer.
- Planning for students to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer after coughing/sneezing, before and after meals/snacks.
- Providing hand sanitizer when hand washing is not available or practical
- Encouraging the use of hand sanitizer when in the building (e.g., before school, after recess, after group activities, etc.) and encourage frequent handwashing.
- Working to regularly disinfect hard classroom surfaces throughout the day.

Additionally, posters reminding students and staff of handwashing and sneeze/face-touching etiquette will be displayed throughout the building and frequent reminders made to our school community.

Plan for shared classroom materials/resources. Within the educational setting, there are often shared materials among students in the classroom (e.g., computers, math manipulatives, calculators, science equipment, etc.). Ensuring that these materials are properly disinfected and cleaned will be an important step in slowing the spread of the COVID virus.

OCA classrooms will establish a routine for limiting the use of shared materials and for wiping down shared spaces and equipment. This may vary across classrooms and age groups but will include such areas and equipment as:

- **Kindergarten**
 - Students and teachers wiping down shared tables.
 - Eliminating stuffed animals.
 - Ensuring there is a procedure for wiping down and disinfecting manipulatives.
 - Ensuring students have their own crayons, markers, writing instruments in their own desks/containers rather than shared bins.
- **1st – 5th grades**
 - Students and teachers wiping down shared spaces within the classroom.
 - Assigning classroom textbooks to each student rather than allow general classroom use.
 - Ensuring there is a procedure for wiping down and disinfecting manipulatives and desks.
 - Ensuring students have their own crayons, markers, writing instruments rather than shared bins.
 - Determining a method for cleaning shared classroom furniture (e.g., beanbags, chairs, couches) or eliminating their use during COVID outbreaks.
- **Middle/High School**
 - Utilizing same methods as in grades 1-5.
 - As students enter classrooms, desktops and chairs are to be wiped down with cleaning materials provided in the classroom. (Parents are asked to contribute 2 rolls of paper towels and 2 bottles of peroxide (3%) or containers of Lysol or Clorox wipes).

Students should come prepared to class and not share materials. This will ensure students have ample writing instruments in their possession and eliminate classroom sets or bins of writing instruments.

Drinking fountains and water bottles. Students should plan to bring water bottles to school. Drinking fountains in the building will be used **only** for refilling water bottles. Elementary students will be able to refill water bottles using classroom sinks.

Temperature scanning. While in **YELLOW Status** (page 4), OCA will scan the temperature of students and visitors entering the building. Anyone with a temperature of **99.5 or greater** will not be allowed to enter the building. In the case of students whose parents may have left campus, the student will be isolated, and parents called to pick up their child.

Locations for Sick Students/Staff. Students who come to school with or develop a temperature of 99.5 or greater during the school day, will be isolated from other students and staff in the school office (vacant middle office). The room will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use with EPA approved products that meet CDC guidelines for COVID-19.

Building Entry and Exit Points. OCA will ensure safe traffic flow into and out of the building.

- **Morning Drop-off Entry Points**
 - Elementary students will enter through the Elementary Entrance.
 - MS/HS students will enter through the Main Office Entrance.

Staff will be present in the morning to greet students, ensure they enter the building safely, scan temperatures according to the Tiered Operating System matrix (page 4).

By utilizing two doors for student entry, students will enter the building closer to their classrooms and reduce congestion in the entryways and halls. Students will report directly to first period/homeroom classes.

- **Afternoon Pick-up.**
- Elementary students will remain in their classrooms and be called out as parents arrive in the pick-up lane.
- All Middle School students will exit the building through the Main Entrance.
- HS student drivers will be dismissed five minutes before other HS students (at 2:55 PM). Students must leave the building promptly!
- All HS students will **exit the building through the SIDE door** closest to the high school hallway directly to parking area.
- **Traffic flow in the building.** Students will remain in the right side of the hallways at all times while moving from place to place.

Cleaning and disinfecting. OCA will work with the operations staff to ensure that nightly cleaning includes the disinfecting of high touch surfaces. Throughout the day, staff and students will work to disinfect high touch areas in classrooms and common areas. Surfaces will be disinfecting with an EPA approved product that meets CDC guidelines for COVID-19.

Any classroom or space used by a student or staff member who *directly contracts* COVID-19 will be closed and returned to service after it has been cleaned and disinfecting utilizing EPA approved products that meet CDC guidelines for COVID-19.

Visitors/Volunteers in the Building. OCA will allow visitors/parents in the building to attend specific events (chapel, in-class activities, lunch with your child) or conduct school business (drop-off/pick-up forms; make payments, etc.).

Plans for Essential Staff in the event of a switch to Distance learning

If OCA must move to distance learning in either ORANGE or RED operating status conditions, the building will be closed to the public.

Head of School, Principal, and Classroom teachers are designated as essential staff and may enter the building.

Essential Staff members may access the building during distance learning under the following guidelines:

- Teachers and staff working in the building must be in their classrooms/work areas with the door closed.
- When in common areas (e.g., hallways, office, teacher workroom, etc.), all staff must wear masks and remain appropriately distanced from one another.

4. INSTRUCTION/STUDENT LEARNING

Teachers will review curriculum guides and plan for priority content for the coming year, looking ahead to content that could be removed to make room for unfinished learning and priority content if needed.

Plans for In-School, face to face instruction

We have approached our return to learn planning with the expectation that occupying the building for in-person instruction is our desired goal.

OCA implemented a Google Classroom environment to be utilized to support direct instruction. Teachers will work with students to ensure student (and parent) understanding and usage of the Google environment. The Google Classroom environment will be used consistently during face-to-face learning to ensure proficiency in the event of moving to distance learning.

Examples for elementary classes include classroom newsletters, spelling lists, and Bible verses or other assignments posted weekly in your child's Google Classroom.

Middle/High School teachers will utilize Google Classroom both for on-site and distance learning, to include weekly assignments, homework submissions, files, quizzes, formative assessments, and/or student posts to the Classroom Chat. All tests and major paper due dates will be posted in Google Classroom at least two days in advance for both on-site and distance learning. These assignments will compile automatically into each student's Google Calendar.

Teachers will also evaluate individual student needs and prioritize instructional supports to ensure maximum student success.

During in-school instruction, teaching and learning will focus on priority content standards. Additional priority will be given to ensuring students are familiar with Google Classroom technology that may be needed for distance learning and understanding login procedures, passwords, and other general requirements that facilitate distance learning efforts.

Return to school activities will include significant focus on learning expectations – for both in school and distance learning. OCA teachers and staff will work to ensure that students understand the significant

challenges the distance learning environment places on student learning. Importance will be placed on classroom and distance learning expectations for learning, required attendance, daily work, etc.

Plans for Distance Learning

Teachers received professional development to better prepare themselves and their students for distance learning. While we hope and pray this option is not required, we are prepared to implement distance learning if required to do so.

Goals of distance learning. If necessary due to a COVID-19 outbreak, OCA will move to required continuous learning (Distance Learning) for students. OCA is committed to continuing to provide Biblically integrated instruction during Distance Learning. Our goals include the following:

- Focus on the Mission of Oconee Christian Academy and expect excellence in all that we do.
 - Our Mission to partner with parents has not changed.
 - We will continue to deliver on our promise of providing an academically challenging, biblically faithful education to students.

- Make instruction relevant, engaging, and meaningful for all students.
- Emphasize teaching and learning.
 - Teachers will treat distance learning as real school, with real work and expectations.
 - Students should be ready to engage and learn during normal school hours.
- Use technology to enable learning, not hinder it.
- Embrace new opportunities. Teachers will focus on priority content but also try new and innovative teaching methods to introduce new content during distance learning.
- Keep student screen time and work expectations reasonable.
 - Students will not be in front of computer screens all day.
 - Instructional time will occur during regular school hours.
 - Keep instructional aspects and parent engagement reasonable; our desire is not to overwhelm anyone – student or parent.
 - Students should have time to engage with parents, siblings and others socially – and safely – and get outside for fresh air. Our desire is to balance learning with family time.
- Keep everything in perspective. We cannot replicate everything during Distance Learning. Bear with us, share concerns, and let grace abound.

Required Attendance. When we move to Distance Learning, attendance will be required. Instruction will be continuous and include both synchronous (e.g., scheduled instruction via Google Meet) and asynchronous (videos and flexible off-line and online assignments without direct teacher interaction) learning opportunities. Student progress will be monitored, and grades issued.

Distance Learning Instructional Time. Distance learning will include specific allotted time for instruction, (for MS/HS students their class schedule will still be followed for instruction via Google Meet), and completion of work for each grade level. Parents and students should expect daily instruction and student work and daily check-ins (Office Hours will be provided by teachers).

5. SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CARE

OCA realizes our previous COVID-19 school closure was difficult on many students and families – it was difficult for teachers and staff as well. A priority of Oconee Christian Academy in any future distance learning effort will be to ensure for the social and emotional care of our students and families.

Research suggests that students with a high sense of belonging are happier, healthier, and more engaged learners. We know that students who feel connected to school are less likely to have emotional distress, be involved in fighting or bullying behavior, and be more engaged in their community and family. While challenging, we want to ensure that we are connecting and engaging students during any distance learning scenario.

Emotional connections for students/families while Distance Learning

The healthiest way for students, (especially elementary and middle school aged), to interact with technology (especially screen media) is if an adult is physically or virtually present and participating in usage with the child. To support this healthy technology interaction, OCA teachers will engage with students regularly and adapt learning activities, virtual lessons, and distance learning social-emotional care to foster connectedness while away from the school environment.

Teachers will use a variety of different activities to engage students:

- Daily or regular virtual/video instruction (depending on the grade level)
- Virtual morning meetings and devotions for students and families
- Virtual Chapel
- Regular teacher virtual or video check-ins (Office Hours)
- Virtual class field trips, scavenger hunts, classroom/school mix-tapes and video creations, parent nights, and other efforts to promote and support school-student-family connections.
- Online classroom discussion boards and chats
- Formal and informal teacher virtual office hours
- Virtual and – when possible – in-person acts of kindness, notes of gratitude and appreciation, and other efforts to remain connected to students and families.

6. **EQUITY**

Oconee Christian Academy desires to ensure all students have access to the learning supports and technology necessary to participate meaningfully in distance learning.

Ensure plans are in place for support of students with ISP/504

The OCA Resource Advisor will continue to be a resource to parent/students with accommodations during Distance Learning. Faculty and parents will work together to implement accommodations during Distance Learning.

Planning for access to technology and learning materials

Students must have access to computers and broadband internet to utilize the Google Classroom environment during Distance Learning.

OCA has utilized funds made available via the Equitable Distribution of Resources portion of the CARES Act to order Chromebooks for OCA. Coupled with our adoption of the Google Classroom platform, new Chromebooks will enable our students to have access to a device on an as needed basis throughout any distance learning period.

- A copy of this document is posted on the school website, **oconeechristian.org** and will be updated as needed.
- Alerts to changes to this document will be sent via an OCA newsletter.
- Parents are instructed to keep children home if they are sick with any type of illness.
- Before returning to school, students/staff with general illness need to be 24-hours symptom-free with ***no medication***.
- For COVID-related illness, students/staff are to be isolated 10 days from onset of symptoms AND fever-free for 24 hours.