



# INSPIRATION ACADEMY

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## INSPIRATION ACADEMY RE-OPENING PLAN

At Inspiration Academy, our mission is to cultivate, nourish and inspire students, using a mentorship model to develop an integrated life of faith from the inside out, in an environment of family, care and love. Our vision is to provide an innovative educational community that inspires students to be creative sources of cultural change in the fields where they are called. We have found ourselves leaning more on this mission and vision today than ever before. In March 2020, we left our campus with the expectation of being together again after two short weeks. As we know now, God had other plans for us. These plans shifted us into a new online learning platform. We navigated through uncharted waters, but we did it together. Together we faced unprecedented challenges but found success in our unity. We learned to lean on one another, we experienced the satisfaction of giving and receiving support, and we learned the importance of practicing effective communication skills. We have as a whole and as individuals grown through these challenges. Today we can look back and thank God for His mercy, grace, and faithfulness in the circumstances in which we have been placed. We thank all of you, our families, for your continued support and your continued faith.

This summer, we have been diligently and intentionally seeking God's guidance as we develop a plan for the re-opening of IA. Our goal is to provide our students with a learning environment that allows them to grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially. IA has found that students learn best in a community of mentorship with caring teachers and friends. Students rise to success when placed in an environment of support and growth in every aspect of life, not only academics. This is what makes IA different than the rest. We believe the best way to provide this to our students is to open our school for on-campus learning.

We have developed and will continue to refine our re-opening plan as we strive to provide our students with the utmost safety while empowering their minds in an on-campus learning environment. In preparing this plan, we have consulted with the following organizations and experts:

Florida Department of Education  
Center for Disease Control  
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools  
Johns Hopkins University  
Southern Association of Independent Schools  
State and Local Health Department  
Cirelle Fitzsimmons, RN....

Our classes will begin Monday, August 17th. We will hold a virtual back to school night for families on August 13th. During the day, we will open the school for a meet and greet time for students only. This will be a time for students to come meet their teachers, pick up schedules, and turn in school supplies. This will be scheduled by classes. Invitations will be out soon with more details.



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Driven by the desire to provide our students with as much continuity and normalcy as possible, we have decided to install cameras in every classroom. This will grant students the opportunity to join and participate in class from a remote setting. We hope to meet the needs of every family while keeping our high standard of education. Communication and connection are imperative for each student's academic and emotional success. If a student has to stay home or is sent home because of an illness, they will be granted access to this platform. If this is a format that you think you might need for your family, please contact Mrs. Rivera before August 1st.

Another step we have taken to provide a healthy and safe environment is to not have cross teaching between High School and Middle School at this time. Going forward there will be a MS and a HS hallway. Students should not have to cross over to each other's areas at any point during school hours. This will help us keep numbers low in the hallways and reduce cross-contact.

## SAFETY PROCEDURES

### Designated drop-off and pickup areas

- MS students will be dropped off and picked up by the West entrance (cross roundabout) Students will social distance as they walk to and from their classrooms.
- HS student will be dropped off and picked up by the East entrance. (flagpole) Students will social distance as they walk to and from their classrooms.
- Student drivers will be asked to keep social distance when walking into campus.
- Students riding the school transportation will report to their designated pick up/drop off areas outside their hallways glass doors. Their temperatures will be checked before getting on the van in the morning and afternoon.
- Students are required to wear a mask while in the van.

### Building entrance procedures

- We ask all students to social distance as they prepare to enter the building.
- School staff will be at the door to open the door.
- All students will have temperature checks before entering the building.
- All students will sanitize hands upon entering the building.
- We ask that parents do not enter the building without an appointment made prior.
- Parents are to call or email the school to discuss any matters. If a face to face meeting is deemed necessary, we will be glad to set one up for you.
- Students will not be signing themselves in. Our front desk staff will sign them in electronically.



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## Temperature Checks

- Hospital-grade, digital, touchless thermometers will be used.
- Students will have their temperature checked before riding in our school's transportation
- Before entering the building
- Throughout the day if necessary
- Anyone with an elevated temperature (above 100 F) will not be permitted into the school facilities and will be provided with information regarding a return to campus.

## Health Screenings

Faculty and staff will be required to report any symptoms of illness to Administration at the onset and should not report to duty if experiencing any of the symptoms listed below.

We ask that families notify the school at the onset of any of the following symptoms and keep students home from school.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unusual fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Unusual headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

## Individual Hygiene

- Students will be required to clean hands upon entry to the building each day, before lunch, after recess and after restroom use for at least 30 seconds.
- Sanitizing stations are provided throughout the school and in every hallway.
- Education on healthy preventative hygiene and self-screening practices will be provided to all students in the first week of school to reinforce the CDC guidelines for handwashing, care of coughing and sneezing, distancing, and care of personal belongings.
- Touchless hand sanitizing stations will be accessible in each building entry.
- Teachers will open/close doors as needed in the classroom and distribute hand sanitizer to students at the end of each class and as needed to prevent contact with sanitizing bottles.
- Posters and signage across campus will provide visual reminders to students about handwashing and hygiene protocols.
- At the end of the day, students will be released from individual classes to prevent bottleneaking in doorways and hallways.
- Classroom cleaning protocol conducted between class transitions.
- Restrooms will be sanitized hourly.



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## Facility Modifications

- Signage provided in each building to represent distancing, handwashing, and hygiene protocols.
- Kick stands installed on all doors in the Upper school building to eliminate contact with door handles.
- Touchless trash receptacles campus wide.
- Traffic flow controlled in entire building.
- Drinking fountains restricted. Please bring a water bottle.

## Face Coverings

As a community, we have allowed each family, faculty, and staff to decide for themselves whether to wear a mask or not. We respect the opinion of all our stakeholders and want to ensure everyone is comfortable with their choices. Inspiration Academy does recommend the wearing of a face mask as recommended by the CDC guidelines.

## Cleaning Protocol

Classroom cleaning procedures will include a two-part process, as outlined by the CDC and the EPA:

**Cleaning:** Refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces with soap and water. It does not kill germs, but by removing some of them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

**Disinfecting:** Refers to using chemicals or approved non-chemical solutions, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces.

To combat the spreading of the virus, additional cleaning routines have been adopted. All school facilities will be thoroughly sanitized daily using EPA approved equipment and disinfectants. We have selected to use disinfectant products from the EPA's DfE list.

Teachers will be expected to clean and disinfect between classes and as necessary. We have trained staff and volunteers who will be assisting in paying close attention to the following areas:

- All common areas
- Glass doors
- Doorknobs and handles
- Classroom desks and chairs
- Lunchroom tables and chairs
- Countertops
- Light switches
- Handles on equipment
- Restrooms
- Locker rooms
- Athletic areas



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## **Sick Child/Faculty-Illness Policy**

Students who become ill during the school day will be transitioned to an isolation area to wait for parent pick-up. The student's symptoms will be documented and reported to the parent, who will monitor the child, consult with the pediatrician, and follow the necessary guidelines of the CDC if COVID-19 is suspected. Parents are expected to be transparent with the school regarding illness and to strictly adhere to the school's illness policy. If a faculty member becomes ill during the school day, s/he will be sent home directly. In all cases of illness, areas that have been contacted will be sanitized by the CDC protocol.

## **Positive COVID test**

Staff and students must stay at home if they have tested positive for or are showing signs of COVID-19 symptoms. Those who have had recent close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay at home and monitor their health. Staff and families should notify the School Office if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone who has a confirmed case. The school will follow cleaning procedures for exposed areas.

IA will be obligated to protect personal data/maintain confidentiality while proactively managing information and risk. The school may close any affected area to properly clean and disinfect and work with the local Health Department to determine an appropriate course of action.

## **Staying Home Procedure**

The school will communicate closely with any family who is following quarantine procedures while maintaining contact with the local Health Department to guide stay-at-home timelines. Depending on exposure, test results, and symptoms, this may be a varied number of days. Any student that must stay home will continue to have access to classes via our online platform.

## **Travel**

Review updated CDC information for travelers, including FAQ for travelers, and consult with state and local health officials. Health officials may use CDC's Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Exposure in Travel associated or Community Settings to make recommendations. Individuals returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 will be expected to follow the guidance they have received from health officials and take preventative measures to support the health and safety of our students and faculty.

## **Lunch Procedures**

IA is preparing an outdoor lunch area for our students to enjoy their lunch outdoors while maintaining social distance. Lunches will be scheduled and staggered.



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This year, IA has chosen to partner with the Manatee County Lunch program to provide our families with individually packaged lunch options. More detailed information will be released in the coming weeks.

Parents can greatly help to ensure lunchtime safety by packing lunches that do not require microwave heating. Packing the student's lunch with a reusable ice pack for cooling or a thermally insulated container for heating will reduce the need for students to stand in a line to wait for the microwave. Please be sure to pack all utensils with the student's lunch, as well.

## **Recess Procedures**

At IA, we believe that interaction and outdoor activities are important for the overall health and well-being of all individuals. We have modified recess in order to continue to provide a safe environment. Recess will be divided into the same groups the students are in class with. We will also do rotations and alternate groups between lunch and recess. All areas, equipment, and hard surfaces will be disinfected after each use.

## **Student supplies**

A student supply list will be sent home next week.

Each student will have his/her own learning supplies and materials.

Students will be allowed to use their lockers.

The no backpacks in classroom policy will continue.

Classrooms will have areas with each student's name to keep their classroom supplies in. We will no longer share supplies in the classroom.

Students will still be required to pack necessary items for school in one backpack containing personal, student supplies necessary for learning in all classes.

## **Elective Classes**

Art-students will have personal supply kits.

Hands-on equipment electives - students will clean hands before use and all equipment will be cleaned after each use.

Athletic electives - students will be encouraged to wear sports gloves and equipment will be cleaned after each use.

## **Weight Room**

- All surfaces will be cleaned with germicidal disinfectant
- Athletes must wash hands before and after workouts
- Athletes will use disinfectant to wipe down equipment after each use
- Do not share cloth towels or rags



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## **Online Learning “Mission-minded remote learning”**

Inspiration Academy is prepared for any interruption to our on-campus learning. In the event, our local community experiences a spike in COVID-19 cases and interruption of physical operations occurs, a smooth transition to online learning will happen immediately. In the event of school closure, our faculty will be prepared to shift to temporary off-campus learning without losing focus on our mission and vision.

## **Chapel and Mentorship**

This year we will host a Chapel for Middle School and a Chapel for High School separately. Mentorship will also be on different days for each group. Students will see the new times on their schedules. We will also have some fun announcements leading up to the start of school. Stay tuned!

## **Retreat**

We have been blessed to be able to provide our students with an unforgettable spiritual and bonding experience every year during our school-wide retreat. This year, it will look different. The decision to not travel out was made with our students' safety in mind. We will not be attending Camp Anderson this year. However, our desire to provide an unforgettable experience for our students has not changed. We are planning on holding activities and events that will provide this type of experience for our students locally on our campus. Stay tuned as more information develops.

## **Liability Waiver**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Ministries Inc. DBA Inspiration Academy, its Board Members, employees, agents, insurers, and representatives are not liable for any illness contracted in our building, outdoor facilities, and playing fields, including but not limited to COVID-19.

As we continue to monitor this situation, we will keep you informed. Although the times we are living in are uncertain, one thing remains, our God will never change. We can trust in this promise: “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33. Our priority as administrators is to seek God's wisdom in all of our decisions. We encourage all our families to join us in prayer for our students, faculty, and school.

Let's seek God and His peace. It's time to unite as one body to bring the love, peace, and joy that come from above to our children. It is our desire to partner with you to ensure the success of our students. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We would love to speak with you. If we all work together, we can overcome the spread of the virus.