Christian Academy of Knoxville is committed to returning to in-person learning.

The definition of a warrior is “a person who shows or has shown great vigor or courage,” especially in the face of adversity. Our entire CAK Warrior community has certainly lived out that definition this year. As we prepare for various COVID-19 contingencies for returning to school in the fall, we believe that now more than ever students need to be with us, on campus growing in their faith, building friendships, and experiencing life-changing opportunities that can only happen in person.

Over the past several months, we’ve been living by what we call the “Four P’s” - Planning, Preparation, Prevention, and Prayer. These have set the foundation as we map out the strategy for the year. We have continually been in meetings with the Knox County Health Department (KCHD), other private schools, and local officials to ensure that our back to school plans not only meet but exceed the recommendations to keep our students safe, healthy, and in school.

As is our mission, we are excited to partner with you to continue your child’s excellent education, grounded in a relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. As part of that partnership, we encourage personal responsibility of your own health and of others who are most vulnerable. The following protocols and procedures are currently in place for the summer and are being put into place for the safe return of students for the new academic year.

COVID-19 Communications

At CAK, we use several communications channels — social media, website, digital updates, and on-campus signage — to keep you informed throughout the summer and
upon returning to school. During the 2020-2021 academic year, you will continue to receive the weekly all-campus e-newsletter, Inside CAK Today, on Thursdays as well as an email from your building principal on Fridays. In addition, for the very latest information on our response to COVID-19, please check our COVID-19 information page which can be found on our website under the “academics” section. If you have questions, you can always reach out to communications@cakmail.org

Academic Life
We have been blessed with amazing teachers and small class sizes which means that within our classrooms, we can achieve social distancing.

When students return to campus this fall, we will be rolling out daily temperature screenings, increased cleaning measures, and social distancing protocols. Every classroom will have hand sanitizer inside the room, and we will encourage and remind our students to wash their hands often. We have also increased the number of hand sanitizer stations that are throughout campus. Students will be allowed to bring their own personal hand sanitizer if they would like.

In addition, we are asking all students to bring a cloth mask to campus daily. These will not be worn all of the time, but we will ask students to wear them when entering the buildings, in the hallways and other common areas, and during times where proper social distancing cannot be achieved, such as during class changes. If you have any questions about this policy, please email communications@cakmail.org

Sick Policy
As we continue to partner with you, our parents, we ask that you also monitor your child’s health at home. We understand that this is a unique school year, and as such we have made a commitment to look at the attendance policy on a case by case basis. We do not want anyone coming to school sick, and we will work with parents as a partner on this.

In addition, if someone in your family tests positive for COVID-19 or if you come into contact with someone who has COVID-19, we ask that you inform your building principal so that we can keep our community safe. Likewise, if anyone on campus is exposed or potentially exposed to COVID-19, we have made a commitment to inform those who were in direct contact immediately and to follow the Knox County Health Department’s protocols.
If a student begins showing symptoms of illness while on our campus during the school day, the student will immediately be moved to a separate area designated for this purpose until the student’s parents can pick him/her up from school. We have designated such an area in all three of our school buildings.

If your student answers "yes" to any of these questions, please remain home and contact your school building receptionist to let us know:

- Are you or anyone in your household currently awaiting the results of COVID 19 testing?
- Have you or anyone in your household been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- Have you had a new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- Have you had a fever of 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit or above within the last 48 hours?

**Cleaning**

We are implementing new cleaning and sanitizing measures that are in line with the CDC COVID-19 cleaning guidelines. These include doubling the size of our day-time professional cleaning staff to ensure areas are cleaned often and thoroughly. We have also implemented new cleaning protocols and provided additional and on-going training to our cleaning staff to avoid cross-contamination.

**Campus Visitors**

Any outside visitors to CAK’s campus (such as mail carriers, vendors, etc) will be limited to specific areas and will be required to answer a series of screening questions prior to coming onto campus. These include affirming that they are symptom-free and have not been exposed to COVID-19 prior to being allowed on campus.

**Parent Volunteers**

Parents are a vital part of our community, and our mission is to partner with you. Parents are welcome to volunteer on campus. Please know that you will be asked to complete a series of screening questions as well as a daily temperature screening prior to coming onto campus.
Lunch
SAGE Dining, our campus culinary partner, has implemented several protocols to keep students safe during the lunch hour. These protocols may look slightly different in each school building (due to age and grade levels), but they are all in line with national health and safety guidelines for safe food preparation and handling.

Fall Athletic Plans
CAK is following TSSAA and Tennessee Pledge policies and procedures for our athletes. This includes daily temperature screenings, increased cleaning, and social distancing as per the current guidelines of each phase in the state and county’s plan. If you have questions about any of these protocols, please speak with your child’s coach.

Campus Events
One of the things that really makes CAK special is our amazing community. We love to get together for events to connect, fellowship, and enjoy one another’s company. This allows us to form deep relationships with one another which are critical to a growing Christian community.

Some of the events that contribute to this community atmosphere will look different this year. Please know these are not permanent changes. We fully intend to bring our vibrant campus life, including large events, back to their full capacity as soon as it is safe to do so. Our goal with any decision is to keep students and families safe, healthy, and in school, but know that we also understand the importance of community gatherings. To our new families, please know that these events are a huge part of our CAK life, and we want you to be able to experience them as soon as possible.

Thank you for your commitment to Christian education
We are excited to partner with you, our families, again this year to provide a high-quality Christian education to students in East Tennessee. Please continue to pray for our school and our community. If you have any questions, reach out to communications@cakmail.org
Additional Resources
You can find more information at:

- CAK’s COVID-19 information page
- Knox County Health Department
- Tennessee Pledge
- Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Page