



WHEATON ACADEMY



UNITE

THE 2020-2021 ROADMAP FOR
A RETURN TO CAMPUS



RETURNING TO WHEATON ACADEMY

Dear Wheaton Academy Parents,

It has been good to talk with some of you over the last several weeks as more of you and your kids have been coming to campus. As I have talked with you and watched things in our nation continue to churn, I have sensed the concern, frustration, and anxiety that many of us are facing. These are tough times. No matter who we listen to on the subject of COVID-19, it is clear that Americans are faced with a great deal of confusion and uncertainty regarding the best way to deal with the coronavirus. We hear a variety of theories about the way this virus spreads and the way we should respond. As of now, no one really seems to have the corner on this situation.

Such confusion is causing our nation to squirm, and tension is building as we approach the 2020-2021 school year. I trust that each of you reading this letter has cultivated a personal perspective on the best approach to take for the upcoming school year. I am quite certain that the opinions in our school community on the way to start the school year vary greatly. Thus, our greatest challenge in the months ahead will be to maintain a unified Wheaton Academy community, despite our differing opinions on the way to approach a school year that will not look exactly like what we have grown to expect.

Over the last week, I was reminded that in John 17 when Jesus prayed for His disciples and for all believers, He asked God three times in this one chapter for His people “to be one...so that they may be brought to complete unity.” He wanted them to be “one” so that the world would know of His love. Forces in our nation and world are not driving us to this type of unity. As our students begin school next month, we ask that you partner with us to promote the type of unity mentioned in Philippians 2:4—“not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.” If we do so, others will be drawn to what is different in our community—the love we have for others because of the love Christ has for us.

We know that this pandemic is not eternal, but in Christ, we are! We trust that our God will guide us through this school year as He has done for the nearly 167 years of Wheaton Academy's existence. Will you please join me in praying for our school community as we make final preparations for the year? Be assured that we will do the same for your family.

We have prepared a plan to unite students, faculty, and staff on campus next month. Please read it over and feel free to contact me or any of our school leaders if you have further questions. We look forward to the year ahead as we nurture growth in students through relationships, excellence, and service to the glory of God.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Steve Bult
Head of School

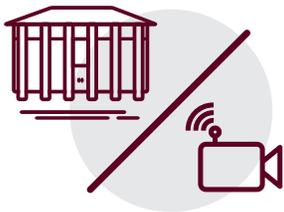
YOU NEED TO KNOW...

This document is designed to give a general framework for our return to campus. More specific guidelines regarding activities such as choir, PE, passing periods, etc. will continue to be released in the coming weeks.



WE WILL BE TOGETHER ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

Wheaton Academy has the blessing of five large buildings and enough space and capacity to have all students on campus in a normal class schedule with whatever spacing is required.



WE OFFER TWO LEARNING OPTIONS

Wheaton Academy is committed to using all our resources, facilities, and creativity to provide an on-campus learning experience that prioritizes the health and well-being of students. For students and families with health issues or concerns, we will provide a remote learning option, so students continue to have a high-quality Wheaton Academy experience. In the weeks ahead, parents and students will have the opportunity to select one of these two options.



WE ARE FOLLOWING STATE GUIDELINES

Even though Wheaton Academy is a private school and often has freedom and opportunity that is not available to many other schools, we are a recognized school with the ISBE and a member of the IHSA. Thus, we need to abide by their guidelines.



WE ARE READY FOR ANYTHING

Because of the changing nature of the current pandemic, we could be forced to move to remote learning for a period of time. As some have witnessed during Summer Academy, we are ready to provide an outstanding synchronous learning experience for our students during that time so that learning is seamless and uninterrupted.



OUR STUDENTS ARE EQUIPPED

Wheaton Academy students have access to high quality technology in the form of their Surface Pro 6 as well as our Learning Management System (LMS), OnCampus, and the technology used by our teachers in class every day. Over the summer, we made new investments in technology to prepare for synchronous learning. Our technology will ensure that innovative learning occurs throughout this year, regardless of the circumstances.

OUR COMMITMENT TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

As we prepare for our return to campus in the fall, we are cognizant that much has changed in a very short time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we are hopeful that learning will return to normal soon, it is important for us to implement measures to keep students, faculty, and staff healthy and safe. These measures currently include but are not limited to the following:



INCREASED CLEANING AND SANITATION PROCEDURES



FACE COVERINGS



ADEQUATELY SPACED CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENTS USING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES



SELF-CERTIFICATION THAT ENSURES STUDENTS ARE SYMPTOM FREE UPON COMING TO SCHOOL EACH DAY



LIVE STREAMED CHAPELS AND COMMUNITY TIMES TO SMALLER GROUPS OF STUDENTS

ILLINOIS GUIDELINES FOR FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOLS

According to the IDPH, all individuals in school buildings, including all public and nonpublic schools that serve students in prekindergarten through grade 12, must wear face coverings at all times unless they are younger than 2 years of age; have trouble breathing; or are unconscious, incapacitated, or are otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance. Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn outside if social distance is maintained. It is recommended that schools require physician notes for students and staff who are not able to wear a face covering due to trouble breathing.



MODIFIED LUNCH PROVISIONS



WELLNESS TRAINING

We will provide Faculty/ Staff and student training, messaging, signage, and resources for proper hand hygiene, proper mask use, and respiratory etiquette.



FOOD ALLERGIES

Students with food allergies will have a safe classroom for lunch.



SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

We will provide consistent teacher support, a back-up staffing plan, and continued professional development for our faculty to provide quality and uninterrupted education plans in the event of employee sick leave.



DRINKING FOUNTAINS & BOTTLE REFILL

Drinking fountains will be closed except for bottle refills. The bottle filling stations will be sanitized daily.



QUARANTINE

If a student, faculty, or staff member exhibits signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during school hours, a designated room will be available to safely quarantine and reduce risk of virus transmission until they can be sent home.



TEMPERATURE CHECKS FOR ALL VISITORS

Outside visitors will be temperature screened and asked about potential symptoms prior to entry into the school buildings.



NURSE INFORMED IF STUDENT IS EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO TESTS POSITIVE

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER CONTRACTS COVID-19?

Wheaton Academy is also prepared if a student or staff member contracts COVID-19. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the family will need to follow state and federal guidance:

School community members who are sick should not return to school until they have met criteria to return. CDC and IDPH guidelines for students who were suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, state that 72 hours must elapse from resolution of fever without fever-reducing medication and 10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared. It is recommended that medically fragile and immunocompromised students consult their medical provider prior to attending school.

Wheaton Academy will follow the CDC and state guidelines for disinfection and cleaning of areas used by the sick individual.



**72 HRS MUST ELAPSE FROM
RESOLUTION OF FEVER**



**WE WILL DISINFECT AREAS USED
BY THE SICK INDIVIDUAL**



**10 DAYS MUST PASS AFTER
SYMPTOMS FIRST APPEARED**

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM OUR ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE



FACILITIES

We will use our five large buildings to provide students adequate spacing for in-person classes and instruction.



SCHEDULE

Our space and class sizes will allow students to go through our regular schedule. Students will take seven classes—with community time on Monday and chapel on Tuesday and Friday. Our final bell schedule will be determined in the next couple weeks. School will start at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday.



IN CLASSROOMS

We will strive to provide students with individual equipment (art supplies, etc.) where possible and utilize proper cleaning procedures when sharing of equipment is unavoidable.



CO-CURRICULARS

Co-curriculars will proceed to the greatest extent possible.



COMMUNITY TIME & CHAPEL

Students will have the opportunity to watch community time and chapel with their classes, and they will have time for interaction with each other and their teachers.



ATHLETICS

Athletics will proceed based on guidance of the IDPH.



ADVISORY GROUPS

Advisory groups will meet every Wednesday.



STUDENT LIFE

Student life events will continue in some of our traditional ways and some new ways.



LUNCH

All students will have the opportunity to get a “grab and go” lunch that can be eaten outside or in various classroom spaces.



FINE ARTS

Fine Arts will continue to the greatest extent possible and in some new and different forms.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM OUR VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE



WHEATON ACADEMY AT HOME

For those with health issues or concerns, students can experience Wheaton Academy in a real bell schedule time frame while at home.



CLASSES

Students have the opportunity to take courses via state of the art camera technology where possible. [Some elective courses may not be able to be taken remotely.]



FULL TIME OR PARTNERSHIP STUDENTS

Students will receive grades and credit for classes completed.



STUDENT SERVICES

Students have the opportunity to check in with our Student Services team who will be available to monitor student progress and well-being.



COMMUNITY TIME, CHAPEL, & ADVISORY

Students will have the ability to watch chapel and community time as well as participate via zoom in an advisory group.



ATHLETICS

Athletics will proceed based on the guidance of the IHSA and IDPH.



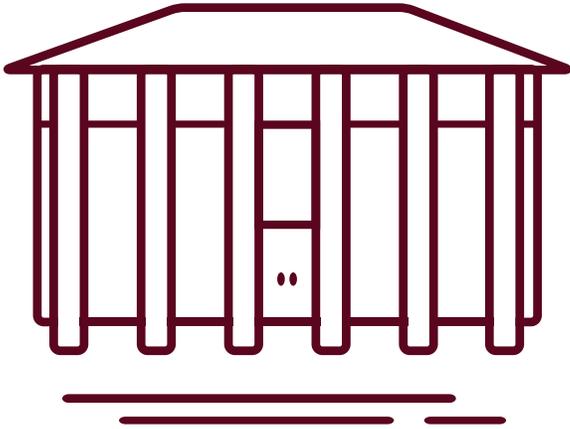
ILLNESS OR EXPOSURE

For students who are ill or unable to be on campus as a result of IDPH guidelines, the virtual experience ensures continued learning.



CO-CURRICULARS

Co-curriculars will proceed to the greatest extent possible.



WE ARE READY

We are ready for a great year regardless of the circumstances. We know that a pandemic is nothing our God cannot overcome. We hold firmly to God's promises in Scripture:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, we are here to help you. Please reach out!

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