



# **SIGNET SAFE REOPENING PLAN**

# INTRODUCTION

On July 30, 2020 the Ontario government revised, the Ontario government released its safety plan for reopening 2020-21 school year, outlining scenarios for students, teachers and staff to safely return to classrooms in September (News Release: *Ontario Prepares for the Safe Reopening of Schools Plan: Approach to reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year*).

The Ontario Government's approach to reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year provides the basis for the Signet Christian School Safe Reopening Plan. We also consulted our Association for Christian School International and adopted best practices amongst our sister schools.

This is not a final version because as time draws closer to the end of summer, we may have to make changes based on safety of student and teachers and the governing regulations. Our Safe Reopening Plan has been developed with these considerations in mind:

*We are*

## **STUDENT CENTRED**

Our plan provides a safe, nurturing environment by balancing the risk of direct infection and transmission of COVID-19 with the impact of school closures on our students' physical, mental, and spiritual health. Current evidence supports the notion that children can return to school in a carefully structured manner that protects their health and minimizes risks from a public health perspective.

*We celebrate our*

## **PARENTS AS PARTNERS**

Our plan provides students with valuable in-person learning and provides our parents with the opportunity to return to work without requiring daycare services for their children on alternate days or weeks.

*We are proud of our*

## **DIVERSE CURRICULUM**

Our plan facilitates the delivery of our diverse curriculum that will continue to challenge each student to reach his or her God-given potential. Our teachers are committed to meeting provincial expectations outlined in the models below and providing instruction that continues to incorporate our Christian values and beliefs.



As we plan to safely reopen our school, we are drawing on two key aspects of health advice: “Social Distancing” and “Cohorting”. “Social Distancing” refers to the practice of avoiding close personal contact with other individuals and maintaining 2 metres of separation for any prolonged encounters. “Cohorting” refers to minimizing the number of students and teachers any individual comes in contact with and to maintaining consistency in those contacts as much as possible.

## TWO SCENARIOS

Based on the two aspects of health advice listed above, Signet Christian will be prepared to offer either of the following two scenarios during the 2020-2021 school year depending on the governing regulations:

### 1. Adapted in-person learning

Based on public health advice, an adapted delivery model has been designed to allow for physical distancing and cohorts of children. Under this model, we will maintain a limited number of students per cohort-floor approx 2 classes (approximately 15-20 students) at one time and will adopt timetabling that allows our students to remain in contact only with their classmates and grade teachers for as much of the day as possible. (each cohort floor they will have 2 teachers assigned). Daily lessons will be delivered in-person and synchronous learning. Simultaneous in-person and online education will not be offered at this time. If a student must remain at home due to illness, daily assignments will be provided by the classroom teacher. THIS IS THE SCENARIO FOR SIGNET IN SEPTEMBER 2020

### 2. At home learning

If the Government of Ontario should order another closure order to all private schools we will be prepared to transition quickly to remote education using a **Signet At Home** plan similar to the one used last term, March 23-June 19, 2020.



# CLASSROOM SCENARIO - Adapted in-person learning

The chart below outlines estimated classes and student numbers. We require 9 classrooms which for us is 4 double rooms and 1 regular room. The Gymnasium and Basement (under the Solarium) will be converted into overflow classrooms and other halls with larger capacity will be opened for chapel and assembly.

Please Note: Signet Christian School will not have the capabilities to offer direct synchronous learning (simultaneous in-person at the same time as online education). So if parent should choose to stay home in the fall, Signet-at-home or online learning will not be available.

## ADAPTED IN-PERSON MODEL

| Classes | Cohort    | Grade Teacher  | Monitor |
|---------|-----------|----------------|---------|
| JK/SK   | 1st Floor | S. Narinesingh | TBA     |
| 1/2     | 2nd Floor | D. Cecil       | TBA     |
| 3/4     | 2nd Floor | E. MacNeil     | TBA     |
| 5 /6    | 3rd Floor | M. Richards    | TBA     |
| 7/8     | 3rd Floor | H. Attree      | TBA     |



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Teacher Rotation

The most important highlight of the Adapted In-Person Model is the opportunity for students to attend school every day. Classroom timetables will be adapted slightly to allow, to the greatest extent practical, for students to remain in contact with only the teachers on their cohort-floor. So classmates and the same 2 teachers for as much of the school day as possible. Subjects including French, Art, Music and Physical Education will be taught by classroom teachers and a single dedicated rotating teachers (TBA). Band will not be offered this year.

## Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Announcements concerning the availability of sports and extracurricular activities will be made as more information becomes available. As a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and dependent on the decisions made by this governing organizations in conjunction with input from our local public health unit.

## Before and After Care Program

Our Before and After School program will be offered based on the needs of our families. The goal of the program is to support families that require additional child care that matches their specific scheduling needs. Children will be protected by using designated child care spaces in the school that strictly follow all cleaning and sanitation protocols.

## Support for Students with Special Needs

Our Special Education Resource program will be active continuing to plan and direct the individual needs of our students. As usual one-on-one support during the school day will be provided within the classroom with the help of our Educational Assistants (EA). Classroom teachers will continue to respond when intervention is required.



## HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The document provided by the Ontario Government provides helpful information and suggestions for private schools. By its own admission, it is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis, treatment or legal advice. In the event of any conflict between the document provided by the Ontario Government or our own Safe Reopening Plan and any orders or directives issued by the Minister of Health or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), we will ensure that the order or directive is followed. To support our Safe Reopening Plan, we will implement protocols to provide for the health and safety of students, families and staff by:

- Following all existing worker health and safety requirements, as outlined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHS) and its regulations;
- Following any further direction given by the local medical officer of health;
- Cultivating a working relationship with our local public health unit as we navigate the complex and evolving COVID-19 pandemic environment, planning and reopening schools, and addressing other child health issues that emerge;
- Providing additional training/refresher learning of school staff that includes health and safety protocols;
- Providing clear, age-appropriate communication about COVID-19, including what the school is doing to protect our students and how we will prevent the spread of respiratory infections, as well as what parents can do at home (e.g. reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, environmental cleaning and increased reassurance).



# COHORTING

Cohorting refers to the grouping of students with the same condition in the same location (e.g. classroom, wing or floor). The goal of cohorting is to minimize interaction of different Grades/Classes as much as possible.

The purpose of cohorting is to limit contact between the student population, so that if a child or teacher falls ill, the number of exposures is significantly reduced. Classes will be cohorted, grouping approximately 15 - 20 students particularly for the younger age groups, so that students stay with the same grouping, and interaction between cohorts is limited. This model recognizes that for younger children, closer interaction, such as playing and socializing, is central to child development. Although close contact may be unavoidable between members of a cohort, general infection prevention and control practices, as well as physical distancing in older grades, will be maintained where possible. Plans will be made to prevent mixing of cohorts in washrooms, and shared surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.

# PHYSICAL DISTANCING

The purpose of physical distancing is to encourage our students, cohorts, staff and essential visitors to maintain a minimum distance of two (2) meters (as this is the requirement as at July 30, 2020). The school's physical environment will be re-oriented to support physical distancing since individual-level behavioural measures are impractical, particularly for younger students.

## Classrooms

When children are in the classroom, efforts will be made to arrange the classroom desks and furniture a minimum of one (1) metre between students. If weather permits, consideration will be given to having classes outside.

## Adjustments to Movement Throughout the School

Designated routes for students to get to and from classrooms, including separate entrance points for students in different grades will be created. Visual cues, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on hallways, to ensure appropriate distances in lines will be provided. Movement of students around the school will be staggered to discourage students from congregating in the hallways.

## Drop-off/Pick-up

Procedures that support physical distancing and separate cohorts will be developed. Drop-off and pick-up of students will take place outside the school, unless it is determined that there is a need for a parent/guardian to enter the school. Parents will be provided with guidance on drop-off and pick-up procedures to discourage congregating at school entrances. Personal belongings brought to school will be kept to a minimum, and they will be labelled and stored separately from other students' belongings.

## Weekly Assemblies/Chapels

For gatherings under 50 we will utilize NYCBC sanctuary for assemblies and chapels or by cohort. Large gatherings of over 50 will be cancelled for the immediate future.

## Outdoor Activities/Recess

During outdoor activities such as recess, physical distancing will not be required. Children will perform hand hygiene prior to outdoor play/playground use. Sports and physical education classes will be encouraged and continue, according to available protocols.

## Lunch Breaks

Students will enjoy their lunches in their classrooms with their cohort to ensure chances of contact and transmission are minimized. Break and lunch times will be staggered to allow students to wash their hands before eating, without creating congestion in the washrooms or hand-washing stations. If weather permits, consideration will be given to having lunch breaks outside.

## **Eating and Drinking at School**

Students and staff will perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating. Students will need their own labelled drink bottles, filled at home, and will be kept with them during the day. “No food sharing” policies will be reinforced and physical distancing will be maintained while students are eating. The Friday Pizza Lunch program will be suspended until we can ensure proper health and safety protocols.

## **Prohibiting non-essential visitors**

The number of parents, volunteers, guests and other individuals inside the school will be limited. Families will be encouraged to interact with teachers using email, telephone and video conferencing, where possible, rather than in person.

## **Student Screening**

Parents will be provided with a checklist to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school.

## **Staff Screening**

Self-assessment tools will be made available to staff to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19. Staff who suspect they may have symptoms will be required to stay home and seek testing.

## **Signage and Monitoring**

Signs will be posted at the entrances of the school to remind students, staff, parents and essential visitors of applicable protocols. Teachers and staff members will be provided with information to identify symptoms of COVID-19 in children so that appropriate action can be taken if children develop symptoms during the day. Due to the range of symptoms for COVID-19 and the evolving understanding of the disease, a low threshold for symptoms will be used.

## **Screening/Self-Assessment**

Strict exclusion policies will be in place for symptomatic students and staff. Staff and students will be educated not to come to school if they are symptomatic or ill or if someone they have come in close contact with, including within their household, is ill with suspected or positive COVID-19 in the last 14 days. If this happens to your family inform the office immediately so we can be alerted.

## **Age-appropriate Language**

Teachers and staff will use age-appropriate and non-stigmatizing language to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and will encourage students to speak to a staff member immediately if they are experiencing symptoms.

## **Records**

The school will keep daily records of anyone (e.g. students, parents, staff, essential visitors) entering the school setting. Records, including name, contact information, time of arrival/departure, screening completion will be kept up to date and available to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak.

## **Suspected Cases**

When a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified, we will work closely with our local PHU around steps to take including notifying parents that their child has begun to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school and isolating the student in a safe area for immediate pick-up. In addition, where possible, anyone who is providing care to the student will maintain a distance of at least 2 metres.

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will return home and self-isolate immediately. If they cannot leave immediately, the staff member will be isolated in a specific place until they are able to leave. School principals are mandated to report infectious diseases under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. Principals will inform local public health units (PHUs), and PHUs will determine risk levels and recommend closure, provide notices, or make other recommendations, such as additional testing, self-isolation, cleaning advice.

## Cleaning and Hygiene

Additional cleaning protocols will be implemented. These will include:

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices, students' chairs and desk tops at least twice a day, as they are the most likely to become contaminated;
- Following public health advice regarding the type of cleaning and disinfectant products to use; following the manufacturer's instructions including guidance with respect to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

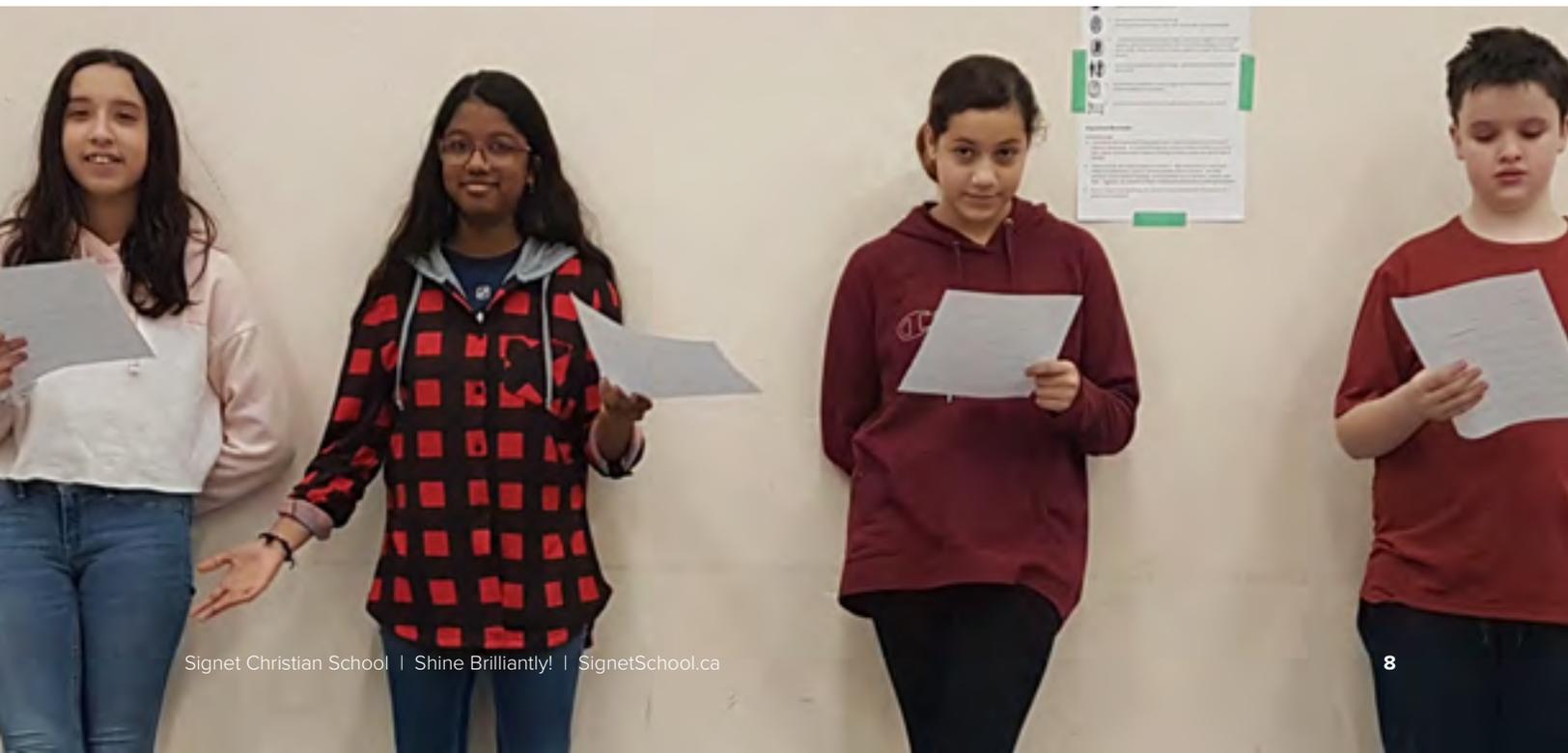
## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- In keeping with public health advice, the Safe Reopening Plan and adapted delivery model has been designed to allow for physical distancing and cohorting to the best extent possible. As such, in a classroom where a teacher is able to remain in the front of the class and maintain 2 metres of distance, PPE is not required.
- All children Grade 3 and above must wear non medical Masks – This includes Grade 3 students since they share class with Grade 4 for whom it is required.
- For members of staff who work in close proximity to the students to perform their regular job duties PPE will be provided. Teachers and other workers may choose to wear non-medical masks on a voluntary basis. Staff will be trained on the care, use and limitations of any PPE that they use. It is recognized that parents may choose to send a cloth mask to school for their children to wear but it is not required. In such cases, parents would be responsible for the safe use/compliance during the school day and the cleanliness of the mask. Essential visitors may also choose to wear a mask and would be responsible for safe use and cleanliness of the mask and proper disposal.

## CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to carefully read over this document. We are committed to partnering with our parents. Please understand that this is the first version of our Safe Reopening Plan and that we will continue to maintain open lines of communication in case there are any questions or concerns. Subsequent versions and protocols will be shared when they are available.

Catherine Dumé, Principal



# PURPOSE FULL EVERYDAY

Smaller Student : Teacher Ratios



Receive the attention and education with smaller class sizes



Affordable non-profit Christian private school

**SCHEDULE  
A TOUR  
TODAY**



**SHINE  
BRILLIANTLY**

Tel: 416.750.7515  
SignetSchool.ca  
Established 1974\*

\*Formerly known as Scarborough Christian Academy.  
New Location on Sheppard Ave. East (Leslie/Bayview)