



## **The Process**

Before the 2020-2021 school year, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Charlotte Baptist Academy put forth a great deal of effort in preparing our "Return to Learn" plan.

That, along with the support of our Academy families, allowed us to have a tremendous year of in-person learning.

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we will build upon our "Return to Learn" plan but we also realize that we are once again being confronted with a host of additional obstacles and questions. The following information is provided to help us once again have a wonderful year of in-person learning.

It is important to keep in mind that, while we have taken into consideration the recommendations of the State of North Carolina regarding public schools; as a private, independent school (SCBA is a ministry of South Charlotte Baptist Church.) we are not obligated to abide by the State's recommendations.

*It should be understood that these guidelines can be changed at any time. Should changes to this plan be necessary, SCBA will do its best to communicate any changes in a timely fashion.*

## **The Foundation**

In May 2020, churches in North Carolina won a legal victory against Gov. Roy Cooper's COVID-19 mandates. As a result, for well over a year, churches in the state of North Carolina have been free to implement their own COVID-19 guidelines. Because South Charlotte Baptist Academy is a ministry of South Charlotte Baptist Church, this legal victory is what allowed us to operate, according to our own, common-sense, guidelines during the 2020-2021.

Using that as our foundation, we are now looking ahead to the 2021-2022 school year.

As it relates to COVID-19, we have sought to balance the extremes while also resting upon the Word of God:

***"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD."*** (Proverbs 21:31)



We should prepare and take the necessary precautions to protect our health and safety, but we must also understand that, ultimately, *our safety is from the Lord*. Because of that Biblical truth we should put our trust in God!

***"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."*** Psalm 56:3

***"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*** Colossians 3:16

During these continued uncertain times, it would be our encouragement for you to make the conscious choice to allow your mind to meditate upon God's Word. Take a verse of Scripture, commit it to memory, and then, throughout your day mentally "chew on it" especially when you find yourself becoming fearful. If you have never committed Scripture to memory, we would suggest the following verses to start with:

***"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:"*** Isaiah 26:34

***Everyone is asked and encouraged to constantly pray that God would physically protect the staff, students and families of South Charlotte Baptist Academy during this upcoming school year.***

## **On Campus Learning**

The administration of SCBA is preparing for *on campus, in-person* school operations for the 2021-2022 school year.

- 1) School Orientations will be "drop in" events on Thursday evening (August 12, 5:00-7:30 PM) and Friday morning (August 13, 9:00 AM-Noon). More information about these events will be sent, via email, the week of August 9.
- 2) Extended School Day (ESD) will be offered just as it was during the 2020-2021 school year.
  - a) ESD will begin at 7:30 AM. Students in ESD must be picked up by no later than 5 PM each evening.
  - b) ESD must be "scheduled" ahead of time.
  - c) ESD for elementary students will only be offered to those who have signed up for ESD on a full-time basis.



- 3) Drop-off and pick-up times.
  - a) Students may be dropped off between 8 AM and 8:30 AM each morning. Students will go immediately to their classes where they will be under the supervision of their teacher.
  - b) Students may be picked up between 3:15 PM and 4:00 PM each afternoon. Although instructional time ends at 3:15, the students will stay in their classes with their teacher.
  - c) Parents will not be allowed to walk their child(ren) into the school building or go into the buildings to pick their child up. Parents should remain in their vehicles and use the drop-off and pick-up lines only.

### Physical Preparations

- 1) In the coming school year, families will continue to be our “first line of defense” in keeping our staff and students healthy.
  - a) Families should monitor and limit their children’s exposure to others during the school year.
  - b) Families should self-evaluate themselves and their students on a regular basis. (Please see the “Symptom Screening Checklist” at the end of this document.)
  - c) It would be wise for families to develop the habit of checking their children’s temperatures **before** bringing them to school.
  - d) Families should prepare a “plan” in the event that their child must be quarantined or in the event that a switch to SCBA Mobile is needed.
- 2) Temperature checks will no longer be administered at the beginning of the school day.
- 3) If a student becomes sick or begins to exhibit symptoms during the school day, they will immediately be isolated, and a parent/guardian will be contacted. It will be expected that the student be picked up as soon as possible. Parent/guardian should follow the instructions in the “Returning to School” section at the end of this document.
- 4) Each class will be isolated (to the greatest extent possible) from other classes during the school day.
  - a) Each class will utilize a different entrance to their classroom.
  - b) Classes will continue to eat lunch in their classrooms instead of the Great room.
  - c) Classes will have separate times on the playground (weather permitting).
- 5) We will be resuming our in-person chapel services in the SCBC main auditorium.
- 6) *As has always been our practice*, teachers will, among other things, teach the children to
  - a) frequently wash their hands (most classrooms are equipped with sinks),
  - b) keep their hands from their mouth and eyes,
  - c) cough and sneeze into a tissue or the crook of their elbow, and
  - d) refrain from physical contact with other children.



- e) Parents are asked to reinforce these same, basic hygiene practices at home with their children.
- 7) Face Coverings
  - a) Face coverings are not required for either the staff or students.
  - b) A parent may choose for their child to wear a face covering during the day as long as that face covering does not become a distraction from the learning process.
- 8) Vaccinations – Vaccinations are not required for either the staff or students. The decision to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, or any other vaccination, is a personal decision that will be left to each individual and family.
- 9) Parents and visitors *will not* be allowed inside of the Academy buildings unless prior arrangements have been made.
  - a) If parents have business that needs to be taken care of in the Academy office, they should call ahead of time to schedule an appointment.
  - b) These appointments may *not* correspond with either morning drop off or afternoon pick up as those will be extremely busy times of the day for the entire Academy staff.

### **Preparing for Interruptions**

During the 2020-2021 school year, there were a few times when we had to transition some students to a digital platform.

While we pray that we will have no need for a digital platform, we do want to be prepared for the possibility.

- 1) At the beginning of the year each student (K4 and above) will be assigned a username and password for ABEKA online.
- 2) Should a child/class need to be quarantined during the school year, that child/class would shift to a digital platform for the time of their quarantine.
- 3) If there is this need, the child/class's teacher will correspond with the parents to make that transition as smooth as possible.

### **Digital Platforms**

Most of the digital platforms below will be used only in the event of an interruption to on campus, in-person learning.

- 1) **FACTS** – For many years, FACTS (formerly RenWeb) has been the Student Information System (SIS) that has been utilized by SCBA for many years.



- a) Through "ParentsWeb" parents can access grades, calendars, place lunch orders, and more!
- b) Before the school year begins, parents should verify with the Academy office that they have a username and password and that they are able to successfully access "ParentsWeb."
- c) ParentsWeb can be accessed at <https://scl-nc.client.renweb.com/pwr/>
- 2) **Zoom** – Zoom is a video conferencing platform that SCBA has used successfully in the past.
- 3) **Seesaw** – **Seesaw is a digital platform that may be utilized by some teachers.**
- 4) **ABEKA** – Should the need arise, students (K4 and above) will be able to access their classes via [www.abeka.com](http://www.abeka.com).

*Parents are asked to work closely with their child's teacher to make the coming year as profitable and safe as possible.*

**Home-Based Symptom Screening Checklist** *(The following is taken from the CDC's website.)*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

Caregivers/Parents: If your child has any of the following symptoms, they might have an illness they can spread to others.

- *Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher*
- *Sore throat*
- *Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from usual)*
- *Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, check for a change from their baseline breathing)*
- *Diarrhea or vomiting*
- *New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever*

Check your child for these symptoms before they go to school. Check symptoms for changes from usual or baseline health.

If your child **DOES** have any of the symptoms above:

- Keep them home from school
- Get your child tested for COVID-19.
- Contact your child's school and report that your child is sick. The school may ask some additional questions to help determine when it is safe for your child to return to school and about other people who may have been exposed.



- CDC has a [Coronavirus Self Checker](#)\* available in its website, which may help you make decisions about seeking medical care for possible COVID-19.

If your child does NOT have any of the symptoms above:

- Consider whether your child needs to see a healthcare provider and be tested for COVID-19. Even if they don't have symptoms, your child should be tested if they:
  - have been in [close contact with someone with COVID-19](#), or
  - have taken part in activities that puts them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed, such as participating in contact sports, attending a gathering with other children or family, or
  - were asked or referred to get testing by a [state](#), [tribal](#), [localexternal icon](#), and [territorial health department](#) or healthcare provider.
- For the purposes of these criteria, daycare and school settings that implement multiple prevention strategies, such as universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, are **not** considered higher risk settings.

If they do not have symptoms and do not meet any of the criteria above, send them to school as usual.

**Returning to School** *(The following is taken from the CDC's website.)*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

Students in the following scenarios include those with a YES response to any part of home-based symptom checklist:

**Scenario 1: Symptomatic student with no increased risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19**

- This student should stay home until his or her symptoms have improved according to existing school policies, typically, **at least 24 hours after** they no longer has a fever (temperature of 100.4 or higher) or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine (e.g., acetaminophen or ibuprofen).

**Scenario 2: Symptomatic student who has had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with a person infected with COVID-19.**



- If the student receives a positive COVID-19 test result they should not attend school and should isolate until:
  - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
  - 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication AND
  - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving (see Isolate If You Are Sick for more information)
- If the student receives a negative COVID-19 test result or are not tested they must still complete the full 14-day quarantine from the last contact with an infected person before returning to school because they can still develop COVID-19 for up to 14 days after being exposed. To best protect the student and others, have the student stay home for the full 14 days. Check your local health department's website for information about options in your area to possibly shorten this quarantine period. (See When to Quarantine for more information.)

**Scenario 3: Symptomatic student with no known close contact with an infected person BUT attends a school with moderate risk of transmission or higher**

- If the student receives a positive COVID-19 test result or if they are not tested, they should not attend school and should isolate until
  - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
  - 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication AND
  - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving (see Isolate If You Are Sick for more information)
- If the student receives a negative test result, the symptoms are most likely from another infection. Because this student DOES NOT have a known close contact, they may return to school once symptoms have improved according to existing school policies such as those described in Scenario 1 above.

For each of these scenarios, after the appropriate isolation or quarantine period is complete, schools should not require a COVID-19 viral test result or doctor's note for school return.

NOTE: The scenarios above describe return to school policies for students who have symptoms of possible infectious illness (i.e., YES response(s) in Section 1).

Asymptomatic individuals who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should also quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with an infected person. To best protect the student and others, have the student stay home for the full 14 days. Check your local health



department's website for information about options in your area to possibly shorten this quarantine period. See When to Quarantine for more information.

If the individual later develops symptoms, they will need to isolate for at least 10 days from the start of their symptoms and meet the additional criteria described in CDC's Isolate If You Are Sick guidance. As a result, some individuals may have a total quarantine plus isolation duration longer than 14 days.