

MERRITT ISLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S BLUEPRINT FOR REOPENING



THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR



Merritt Island Christian School (MICS) will reopen for traditional instruction on Monday, August 10, 2020. MICS will commit to following the safety guidelines stated by the CDC, FLDOE, and the Brevard Health Department.

Please sign and return the attached Merritt Island Christian School **NOTICE AND RELEASE** document at the Back to School Celebration, August 7, 2020, or send a signed digital copy to dstevenson@micscougars.com.

MICS' BLUEPRINT FOR REOPENING **(COVID -19 related information is highlighted in yellow.)**

PARENTS:

For the first nine weeks, parents/guardians may not enter the Atrium or Children's Buildings during the school day.

All students entering the Academy, Children's Building and Atrium Building will have their temperature checked prior to entering the buildings. If your child's temperature is at 100.4 or higher, you will need to take your child home. Your child must be fever free for 24 hours and a doctor's note will be required prior for re-admittance to MICS. If your child's temperature is 100.0 to 100.3, your child's temperature will be checked throughout the school day.

If your child comes to school with a cough or running nose (which could be allergy - related), but no fever, your student will be asked to wear a mask. Your student will be observed throughout the school day.

If a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19, the clinic will give the student a mask to wear, the parent/guardian will be contacted, and the student will remain in the clinic until the parent/guardian arrives.

Upon arrival, the parent/guardian will need to call the main school office (321-453-2710) and remain in their vehicle. A staff member will bring the student out to their vehicle and assist them in signing out their child.

If a MICS student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, MICS parents/guardians will be notified. The county health department will, also, be notified. The name of the individual will remain confidential. Some classrooms could be re-located and short-term closure (up to 2 weeks) of Merritt Island Christian School could take place. MICS will close off areas used by individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 for cleaning and disinfecting of the facility.

Any student or staff member traveling internationally or on cruise ship will be expected to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to the United States, based on federal and state executive orders. Students will be provided an opportunity to continue learning during the quarantine period through paper packets with instructional support.

Students receiving daily medications will receive those medications in the Florida Room, the room off the Atrium Foyer.

SCHOOL START AND END TIMES:

School begins at 8:00am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. School starts at 8:45am on Wednesday mornings.

School is dismissed for elementary and secondary students at 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

DROP OFF:

Elementary Students who arrive at school from 7:00am to 7:30am, may be dropped off at the Academy from 7:00am until 7:30am where their temperatures will be taken.

Kindergarten through 6th grade will be brought to the Atrium to be supervised by teachers where social distancing will be observed.

Elementary Students who arrive at school from 7:30 am – 8:00am may be dropped off in the school “drop off lane” in front of the Atrium Building. Kindergarten through 6th grade will be received at the main Atrium entrance doors. Temperatures will be taken prior to entry.

Kindergarteners through 3rd grade will be taken to the Atrium where they will be supervised by their respective classroom teachers.

Fourth – 6th grade will be taken to the chapel where they will be supervised by their classroom teacher. At 8:00am, 4th – 6th grade will be transported to their respective classrooms on the second floor of the Children’s Building.

For the first nine weeks, Pledges will be recited in classrooms.

For the month of August, Wednesday morning drop off (8:45am start) will be the same procedure as Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Secondary students, 7th – 12th grade, who arrive at school from 7:00 – 7:45 will enter the Atrium through the main foyer doors. Secondary student temperatures will be checked prior to entry into the Atrium. Secondary students, PLEASE bring a school-appropriate mask, as you will be required to wear it in the hallways and at your lockers after class dismissals. 7th – 12th graders will be guided to Mr. Cottrell’s classroom and remain there until the 7:45 bell rings.

Secondary students, 7th – 12th graders, who arrive at school after 7:45 will enter the Atrium through the main foyer doors. Secondary student temperatures will be checked prior to entry into the Atrium.

Secondary students, PLEASE bring a mask, as you will be required to wear it in the hallways and at your lockers after class dismissals.

PICK UP:

Elementary Students (Pick Up Maps will be in your Back To School Packets)

Kindergarten and 1st grade pick up from 3:00 – 3:15 is at the north Chapel doors.

Second and 3rd grade pick up from 3:00 – 3:15 is behind the gym. The students will exit from the 2nd floor fire escape door on the south side of the Atrium Building.

Fourth through 6th grade pick up from 3:00 – 3:15 is from their Children’s Building classroom doors.

Secondary students, 7th – 12th grade, will exit through the main doors of the Atrium Building and may be picked up through the vehicle drive through lane on Magnolia Ave.

CHILD CARE: (Academy Building)

Before Care – 7:00am – 7:30am and After Care 3:15pm – 5:30pm

SECONDARY BREAK and ALL LUNCHES:

High School Break and Lunch Times will be in the Atrium with social distancing observed.

The lunchroom will be disinfected after every use, extra tables have been added with students sitting every other chair and students will not sit across from each other.

The lunchroom will be disinfected 8 times during the school day, before and after each use, including use at morning drop off with our kindergarten through 6th graders.

Parents/Guardians may be able to eat with their student/s in the Florida Room after the first nine weeks.

Student lunches delivered by parents will be received at the entrance doors of the Atrium. Hot Lunches (\$4.00) will be served beginning the second week of school in “to go” containers, beginning August 17. (Please plan on packing your student’s lunch August 10 – 14.) The Cougar Café will be open for secondary students beginning Monday, August 10th, but under new sanitary regulations. For the first nine weeks, the Cougar Café will be closed after the secondary lunch, no before or after school purchases. All food service workers will be wearing masks and gloves.

COUGAR BUCKS:

Check out the COUGAR BUCKS table at the Back to School Celebration! Your child may purchase items from the Cougar Cafe using a personal credit card OR with a COUGAR BUCKS card. Parents can load any dollar amount to the COUGAR BUCKS card. The cost of the card is \$1.50.

PIANO/VOICE LESSONS:

If you have not registered for piano or voice lessons for the 2020-2021 school year, please do so at the Back to School Celebration on August 7th. The annual fee is \$900 and will be added to your monthly FACTS tuition payments.

CLASSROOMS:

Social distancing will be observed in every classroom. The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) reflects that, “Education programs are inherently designed for social interaction, not social distancing”. The FLDOE then states, “While educational programs should maintain maximum distance between students’ desks, this distance may often not reach 6 feet.”

MICS will space students with a maximum distance between each student. All desks and tables will have students facing one direction.

All classrooms will be disinfected prior to students entering for instruction. All surfaces will be disinfected throughout the school day.

Face masks in classrooms are not mandatory at this time, but students and staff may wear them.

Students need to bring a thermos or water bottle every day to school. Three bottle refilling stations have been added on campus. If your child forgets or loses their thermos or water bottle, every classroom has disposable paper cups available. We are asking students to not use the drinking fountains.

Hand sanitizing stations have been added in classrooms and in all buildings, the Academy, the second floor of the Children's Building and Atrium Building.

TECHNOLOGY:

All secondary students will be assigned a school laptop for their use. Students will sign a contract when the laptop is given to them. Personal phones and personal devices will only be used during break and lunch time. If a device is out during class or in the hallways, the device will be held in the principal's office with a \$10.00 fine.

BUILDING and RESTROOM CLEANING and SANITIZING:

All frequently touched surfaces such as, light switches, door, sink, and toilet handles, and handrails will be disinfected twice daily.

SECONDARY STUDENTS CHANGING CLASSES:

Secondary students need to bring a face mask, as you will be required to wear it in the hallways and at your lockers after class dismissals. All hallways and stairways will follow one-directional signs.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES:

Elementary students and secondary students will attend enrichment classes, with enrichment teachers disinfecting the classrooms and gym equipment after each class. Physical Education classes will set up small group stations for physical skill instruction the first nine weeks.

Elementary students will go to Library, but for the first nine weeks, they will not check out or select books. The librarian will instruct and read classroom teacher selected books.

CHAPEL:

Elementary and secondary students will attend chapel weekly.

Social distancing will take place with seating in every other pew.

The chapel will be disinfected after each use. For the first nine weeks, the chapel services will be closed to parents/guardians.

RECESS:

All elementary students will observe recess time. Playground equipment and recess play items will be disinfected. If a student does not want to interact in small group physical activities, they may bring a book or drawing pad and sit on the bleachers or bench.

FIELD TRIPS:

For the first nine weeks, off-site field trips have been suspended. MICS is encouraging virtual learning field trips aligned to the Florida Standards.

ATHLETICS:

Merritt Island Christian School is following the Florida High School Athletic Associations' recommendation for secondary sports to reopen. Our coaches are practicing the guidelines of sanitizing all equipment after use, students using their own water bottles, and spacing practice times. Students using the minibus for away travel will wear masks and students riding the coach buses will socially distance to every other seat.

Merritt Island Christian School does not know what our opponents' school will state, as far as, whether visitors will be allowed.

Merritt Island Christian School plans to open our gym and our football bleachers to visitors. Spacing between family members will be encouraged. Individuals working the gate and concessions will wear a mask and gloves.

All student athletes must have an up-to-date athletic physical (FHSAA EL2 form) and consent form (FHSAA EL3 form) on file with the Athletic Department before participating in an athletic practice.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION VIDEO:

MICS kindergarten parents will be emailed a link to this video.

SEVENTH GRADE ORIENTATION VIDEO:

MICS 7th grade parents will be emailed a link to this video.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

Florida State law requires all students entering kindergarten and entering the 7th grade to have specific immunizations Please contact your pediatrician this summer to make sure your child has had the following immunizations.

A record of your child having had these immunizations must be turned into MICS prior to the first day of school

Kindergarten Students

- (4-5) DTaP (The last dose must be after age 4.)**
- (3-5) Polio (The last dose must be after age 4.)**
- (2) MMR**
- (3) Hep B**
- (2) Varicella (or proof of having had the disease)**

7th Grade Students

- (4-5) DTaP (The last dose must be after age 4.)**
- (1) Tdap**
- (3) Polio (The last dose must be after age 4.)**
- (4) Polio**
- (2) MMR**
- (3) Hep B**
- (1) Varicella (or proof of having had the disease)**

SUPPLY LIST:

Supply lists for Preschool Academy, Elementary and Secondary are available for printing on the school website at www.micscougars.com, under “Academics.”

IMPORTANT PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES:

In an effort to move toward more paperless communication, we will again email our Academy, Elementary, and Secondary Handbooks. All new policies in the handbook are highlighted in yellow.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

You may access the 2020-2021 school calendar on our school website at www.micscougars.com. A printed version of the calendar will be provided to all families in the Back to School Celebration packets.

VISITOR CHECK IN PROCEDURES:

All visitors to MICS must provide a Driver License to the school office and obtain a visitor pass upon entering our campus. This will take place after the first nine weeks.

BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION:

Merritt Island Christian School will be staggering the times for you and your child to come to campus, pick up your student’s school packet and meet their teacher/s.

Elementary and Secondary - Friday, August 7, 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Temperatures will be checked at the front entry of the Atrium Building.

Last names beginning with **A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H** please arrive during the time frame of 3:00pm – 4:00pm.

Last names beginning with **I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P** please arrive during the time frame of 4:00pm – 5:00pm.

Last names beginning with **Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z** please arrive during the time frame of 5:00pm – 6:00pm.

Used School Uniforms and Physical Education Uniforms will be on sale in the Florida Room, in the school foyer.

Academy – Friday, August 7, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Temperatures will be checked at the front entry of the Academy Building.

Last names beginning with **A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H** please arrive during the time frame of 5:30pm – 6:00pm.

Last names beginning with **I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P** please arrive during the time frame of 6:00pm – 6:30pm.

Last names beginning with **Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z** please arrive during the time frame of 6:30pm – 7:00pm.

MICS WEBSITE:

Please visit the MICS website at www.micscougars.com. The website is an important tool for school/home communication. In addition to school information, the website contains important announcements, school forms, and links.

FACTS SIS:

(formerly RenWeb)—The School Wide Communication System!

FACTS SIS is the most important and informative line of communication families have with MICS. Please check FACTS SIS regularly, for important news, grades, elementary and secondary report cards, classroom information, athletic information and more. Returning families will continue to use their existing login usernames and passwords. Families will receive login instructions in their Back to School Celebration packets. **PRESCHOOL FAMILIES ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE AN EMAIL ACCOUNT TO UTILIZE FACTS SIS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN EMAIL ACCOUNT, THERE WILL BE AN INDIVIDUAL AVAILABLE AT THE BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION TO HELP YOU CREATE A FREE ACCOUNT SO THAT YOU MAY UTILIZE FACTS SIS.**



NOTICE AND RELEASE

Merritt Island Christian School (MICS) is hereby providing notice to me/us that it currently intends to open its educational and school program for the 2020-21 school year. I/we understand that Merritt Island Christian School cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks which may be encountered as a result of my child attending MICS. If my child has no fever, but is showing other symptoms of possible illness, such as coughing, sneezing, or running nose, my child will need to wear a mask to remain at school. (MICS understands that some children have allergies with the above-mentioned symptoms.)

I/we understand Merritt Island Christian School will be testing the temperature of my child upon arrival. If my child's temperature is at 100.4 or higher, I will need to take my child home. I/we understand that my child must be fever free for 24 hours prior to re-admittance to MICS. If my child's temperature is 100.0 to 100.3, my child's temperature will be checked through out the day.

I/we realize there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and hazards which independently or in combination with any activities engaged in while participating in this program may result in the exposure to certain risks including exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agents, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization or death.

I/we hereby state that I, on behalf of my child/student and myself, am an adult, over the age of 18, and legally competent to sign this form.

I/we understand these inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing its educational program and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious or predictable, and hereby intend this release to extend to injury or loss which results from both obvious or predictable risks, as well as risks that are unpredictable and not obvious and to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable.

In consideration of myself and my/our child/student participating Merritt Island Christian School's educational and school program, I/we, and any legal representatives, heirs and assigns, hereby release, waive, and discharge Merritt Island Christian School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness or exposure to and/or contracting the corona virus (COVID19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent by me or my/our child/student's attendance at and participation in Merritt Island Christian School's educational program, including any medical expenses, injury and/or death.

I/we agree to indemnify Merritt Island Christian School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student's participation in the aforementioned program, whether caused by negligence of Merritt Island Christian School, or otherwise. I fully understand, on my own 2 behalf and on behalf of my child/student the risks associated with the aforementioned participation and assume any risk associated therewith. This notice, release and indemnity agreement contains the entire agreement between and among the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital. The parties to this agreement hereby agree that the interpretation and enforceability of this release shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida. I /we expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I/we understand that by signing this agreement I am giving up on behalf of my child/student and myself certain legal rights and remedies including the right for my child/student and/or myself to recover damages in the event of death, personal and/or bodily injury of any kind, property loss or damage, expenses of any nature whatsoever including attorney's fees, and other losses that my student(s) or that I may sustain in association with my child's participation in the Merritt Island Christian School's educational program.

I/WE HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I/WE SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY AS MY OWN FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

Student/s Name _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____