

# Together

2020  
2021

ECS  
Back  
to  
School  
Plan



The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. - 1 Timothy 1:5 ESV



Human beings are made for community. And there's nothing like the ECS community. We look forward to returning to ECS *Together*.

Our theme this year is *Together*, inspired from I Timothy 1:5:

*The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

Never before in the history of ECS have we begun school amidst a global pandemic. In order for us to return to campus in-person, this school year will look different. To accomplish this, it will take all of us working as one to be *Together*.





# Guidelines to Keep Us Together

The ECS COVID-19 Task Force, comprised of individuals within our community representing members of the medical, legal, risk management and cleaning and disinfecting professions, has been meeting regularly to advise our Leadership Team on implementing a back-to-school plan that balances our goal to provide the best education for your child in the safest environment possible.

- ◆ Your child's health and safety are of utmost importance to us.
- ◆ As a private school, we are not bound by the decisions of public schools or other private schools. We will consult health care professionals and consider guidelines from the Shelby County Health Department, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and government officials to inform us on current trends related to COVID-19.
- ◆ Should there be a COVID-19 outbreak or need for quarantine within our community, we have developed several alternative scenarios we are prepared to enact with school-wide remote learning as the last resort.
- ◆ As always, we seek to advance the mission of the school, which is *to provide the Christian family a Christ-centered, biblically directed education that challenges students to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to develop the vision and practice of excellence in academics, character, leadership and service to others.*



# Two Choices

We know that many of you are anxious to return to school, but we also understand that some may have a health issue or family circumstance that makes returning to school difficult. We will offer two options, and we ask you to commit to your choice for the entire first quarter. Make your selection by filling out the attached form by August 1.

## 1. In-Person Learning

With this option, students learn from their teachers in-person and on campus.

If a COVID-19 outbreak or quarantine situation arises, according to the Shelby County Health Department, certain exposed individuals, classes or the entire school may have to transition to remote learning.

## 2. Remote Learning

With this option, Middle and Upper School students will attend every class remotely by video conference just as if they were in school in person. Lower School students will follow a specific remote learning plan.

Students who choose this option will be unable to participate in team sports, extracurricular activities, or be on campus during this time.



# Increased Safety Measures

# Together



## Daily Temperature Checks

There will be non-contact, infrared temperature checks for all students, faculty and staff upon arrival every day.



## Face Coverings

Pre-K-12th grade students will be required to wear a school-issued neck gaiter that will serve as a face covering as a part of our school dress code at this time. Students will cover their noses and mouths upon arrival and dismissal from school, during any movement throughout the school, or when physical distancing of less than 6 feet is not possible. Face coverings are encouraged but not mandatory in the classroom as desks are spaced out to achieve proper social distancing.



## Social Distancing

Classroom desks will be appropriately spaced out, and students will be required to maintain social distancing unless they wear face coverings.



## Foot Traffic Patterns

Hallway foot traffic will be directed to support social distancing guidelines.



## Clean Hands

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently, and hand sanitizer will be provided throughout campus in common areas and in classrooms.



## Surface Disinfecting

High-touch surfaces will be disinfected frequently throughout the school day.





## ***School Day Safety***

We have developed a five-phase plan for this school year. For reference, Phase 1 is school as normal like last fall. Phase 2 is school with extra precautions as outlined in this plan. Phases 3 and 4 will be in-person hybrid models that will adapt to updated health and safety guidelines. Phase 5 is school-wide remote learning, which will be used as a last resort. We will begin this school year in Phase 2.

In Phase 2, social distancing will be maintained with new classroom locations and layouts, hallway traffic patterns, changes to dining and new measures for recess and physical education. Lower School and Middle School procedures will focus on classes or “pods” of students that do not cross over to other groups to reduce spread in case of any illnesses. Upper School will follow social distancing protocols. All divisions will limit large group gatherings and comply with other precautions that keep health awareness a priority.

## ***Staggered Student Arrival/Dismissal Times at the Lower School Campus***

We will conduct staggered student arrival and dismissal times in accordance with the City of Germantown, which will also help our morning carpool line as we take daily temperatures of students.

### **Grades**

3rd - 5th grade  
SK - 2nd grade  
LE - JK

### **School Day Times**

8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

If a family has multiple children with varying arrival/dismissal times, they may arrive at the earliest time, and younger siblings will wait for their school day to begin in their classrooms. Likewise, they may also wait in their classrooms until their older siblings are dismissed for the day. Look for more information from the Lower School Principal.

The Shelby Farms campus will not have staggered arrival/dismissal times. The school day will begin and end at the same time as last year, and instructions regarding daily temperature checks for this campus will be communicated at a later time.

### **Shelby Farms Schedule**

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays	8:50 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Wednesdays, Fridays	8:50 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Zero Period (optional)	8:00-8:45 a.m. every day except Wednesdays

# *In School Together*



## ***Lunch***

For Lower School, lunch will be held in classrooms. Weather permitting, some classes may eat outside on certain days. For the Shelby Farms campus, students will eat in the class that follows lunch, and seniors will still be able to enjoy the senior privilege of eating outside, weather permitting, socially distanced. Pedestal Foods will offer safe lunch options. Look for an email with more lunch details soon.

## ***Chapel***

Because we are unable to gather large groups in one room, this year, chapel will look different. We will find creative ways to deliver the gospel message to your children even though we will not be able to all be in the same room at the same time. Middle School and Upper School Discipleship groups will continue to meet twice a week.

## ***Before Care/After Care***

For Lower School, we will still offer Before Care, beginning at 7:00 a.m., and students will be in their classrooms, socially distanced. Students will remain in their classrooms for After Care, which is offered until 6:00 p.m., and is available by reservation only. Please note that this year, there will be no After Care drop-in option at Lower School. Look for an email from the Lower School office with more information on how to sign up for After Care.

For the Shelby Farms campus, Before Care will be offered beginning at 7:15 a.m., and students must sit socially distanced in the Student Union Building until class begins. Parents who want their child in Middle School After Care, which will be a physically distanced study hall environment, must reserve their spot. Look for an email from the Middle School office with more information on how to sign up for After Care.

## ***Special Area/Fine Arts Classes***

For Lower School, all special area teachers except P.E., will come to each classroom for Music, Art, Spanish, Library and STEM. For Shelby Farms campus students, desks will be socially distanced in Fine Arts classes.

## ***Sports***

We continue to await updates from the TSSAA regarding sports this year.

# *In School Together*





# *Important Parent Information*

## ***Email in Lieu of Parent Meetings***

Because we are unable to gather large groups together at this time, we will send all the information you need to know before the first day of school via email this year. Email and occasional text messages are the primary means of communication from ECS. Please check your email and the ECS website regularly.

## ***Daily Health Screening***

Instead of requiring parents to fill out a health screening form for their child every day, we ask that parents sign one form, which is forthcoming, in advance of the first day of school. This form affirms that every day you send your child to school, he/she is well and not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

## ***Visitors***

We will be unable to have parents or vendors in our buildings at this time.

## ***In Case of Campus Closure or Student Quarantine***

If a situation arises which requires your child's campus to transition to remote learning due to a COVID-19 outbreak or need for your child to quarantine, we ask that all parents have a plan to care for their child/children in place within 24 hours.





# Orientation/First Day of School Information

Students will be oriented when they return to campus. We anticipate students will learn quickly and adjust to their new routines. We also will provide detailed materials in August for parents to better understand the new procedures.

## *Orientation for the Lower School Campus*

Orientation for Lower School will take place on Wednesday, August 12. Parents and students will come to campus at staggered times, alphabetically according to last name, which will be outlined in a forthcoming email. **Lower School students should WEAR THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORMS for traditional First Day of School photos at Orientation on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, when parents can be in the classrooms with their children.**

## *Orientation/First Day of School for the Shelby Farms Campus*

This year, every student in 6th-12th grades will be required to attend Orientation, which will take place on a half day on Wednesday, August 12, the first day of school. **Middle School students will attend from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., and Upper School students will attend from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Lunch will not be served on this day.





# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

# Together

Dear Parents,

We look forward to starting the school year at ECS where we have a mission that matters: *to provide the Christian family a Christ-centered, biblically directed education that challenges students to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to develop the vision and practice of excellence in academics, character, leadership and service to others.*

Information regarding COVID-19 is ever-changing, and we ask for your support, grace and prayers as we navigate a school year that will look different in a lot of ways. As we implement new safety protocols throughout the school day to ensure the safest environment for our students, we ask that you also help our effort by practicing appropriate social distancing and wearing a face covering in public as advised to keep our larger community safe and healthy. It will take a commitment from us all as we work *Together* for a healthy return to school.

We are thankful that you have chosen to partner with ECS as *Together*, we seek to build your child for life.

In His Service,



Braxton Brady  
Head of School

