



# Middle School Reopening Letter

## Shaka Arnold, Head of Middle School

Dear Middle School Families,

Between August 24 to August 26 middle school students will be invited to campus in groups by advisory for one full day of middle school orientation. This will allow them to acclimate to our new routines and safety protocols. On August 27, through September 11, groups of middle schoolers will begin a hybrid model of in-person and remote classes with a limited number of students attending in-person once every four days. All students will attend classes for the full day from, 8:05 a.m. - 3:20 p.m. each day. On the days when groups of students are not on campus, they will attend class remotely via Zoom or Google Meet and access course documents and instructions using Google Classroom. This in-person “hybrid” model means the population of middle schoolers on campus each day will be reduced to half or less. Details of those student groups will be made available the week of August 17. Students will receive their class schedules and advisory assignments on the first day of school, whether they are in-person or virtual.

### **Classroom Spaces**

Classrooms inside of the middle school have been arranged by grade level, and to allow for comfortable physical distancing between students. The library and student lounge areas have been converted to classrooms and equipped with mobile whiteboards and audio visual equipment. Classrooms are also prepared in spaces outside of the middle school in the same manner. Students will be given coverings for sitting in the grass and those spaces are also equipped with appropriate seating. When classes go outside, lessons may be modified for virtual students based on limited access to wifi.

### **Lunch**

Middle-schoolers will eat lunch in our main dining facility for lunch. Dining hall staff will serve students from the line, and there will be grab-and-go options as well. Students will be required to maintain appropriate physical distance with masks on until they are seated at their table to enjoy their meal. Our round tables have been replaced with rectangular ones that can seat no more than two students, six feet apart, all facing one direction. One-way routes will guide students into the dining hall, through the food line and to their seat. Once a child is finished, there is a specific route for them to dispose of their dishes and exit the dining hall.

### **Recess**

Students will have recess in groupings on designated days to be determined after Labor Day.

## **Transitions Between Classes**

Students will be released from classes in intervals and by grade level groups when they have to move classrooms.

## **Morning Arrival**

The Middle School buildings will open no earlier than 7:30 a.m., at which time students will be directed by grade level to go to specific entry doors for morning check-in. All middle school students must enter through the grade specific doors every day, where teachers will be present to check students in. Drop off, except for those students who ride the buses, must always be at the carline circle in between the Dining and Parents (Upper School) Halls. Each day students will prepare for the start of classes in assigned rooms by grade level.

## **Dismissal**

Bus riders will be dismissed from classes first, followed by students by grade level (in the same manner as the transition between classes).

## **Dress Code and Masks**

Small changes have been made (detailed in my letter from July 27) to allow for more suitable footwear and shirts given that students will be going outside more often. Sneakers, hiking boots and other appropriate close-toed shoes for walking to other parts of campus are allowed. Students will be required to wear an appropriately fitting mask. It must be free of slogans or writing but can be any color or pattern. Students that forget to bring a mask will be provided a disposable mask by the school for the day.

## **Lockers**

Middle School students WILL NOT use their lockers until further notice. Instead they will take their backpack and jackets with them to class.

## **Supply Lists**

In addition to the [Middle School Supply List](#), all students need to bring a water bottle to school each day.

## **Field Trips**

There will be no middle school trips in the fall. Experiences for each grade level may be scheduled for the spring.

If your family situation requires that your middle-schooler will not be attending school in person, please contact me ([arnolds@columbusacademy.org](mailto:arnolds@columbusacademy.org)).

Looking forward to getting started and working with your children!

[Shaka Arnold](#)

Head of Middle School

