

BACK *TO* SCHOOL:

An Overview of Our Plan for the Fall



HILLCREST ACADEMY
ACADEMICS that INSPIRE. FAITH that LEADS.

Back-to-school planning is no small task even during a typical summer. If you're among the countless parents feeling overwhelmed and ill-equipped to prepare for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, we understand there are many questions you need answered now.

• **Will schools open as scheduled this fall?**

• **Is it safe for my child to come back to campus yet?**

• **Is online learning an option? Can our family balance that?**

• **Will students have to wear masks at school?**

• **With social distancing measures in place, will my child miss out on extracurricular activities and other important opportunities?**

These are just a few of the concerns on parents' minds. While the COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation, we want Hillcrest families to feel confident as to what school life will look like in the fall. This back-to-school guide was created to relieve the burden of the unknown and to help your family become as prepared as possible for the fall.

Hillcrest Academy has a return-to-learn team that has been working tirelessly to create strategies for keeping students safe while maintaining a highly relational environment. On the pages ahead, you can read about our return-to-learn plan, what the learning environment will look like at Hillcrest Academy, how campus life might change, and if you are new to Hillcrest Academy you can read about ways you can get acquainted with our school from home this summer.

We hope you'll find comfort in the fact that we have a firm plan in place that considers every student's health and wellbeing, but also ensures they get to experience the joys of education and community.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions. We look forward to meeting your family!

Sincerely,



Rebecca Beachy Miller

Director of Enrollment

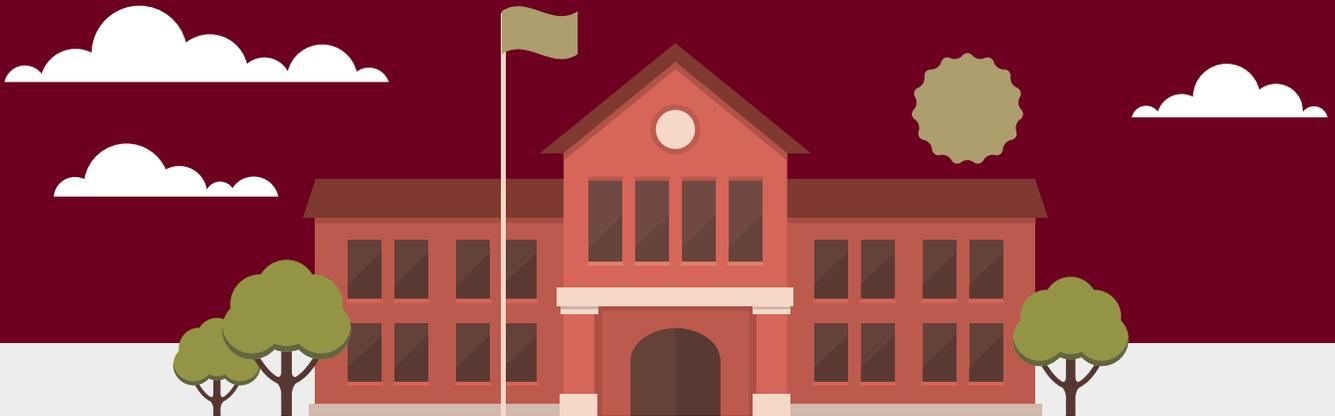
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On-Campus Learning



We are currently planning for students to come to campus each day for meaningful learning experiences, enriching community, and exciting activities. On-campus learning will look similar to what students are accustomed to, with minor changes to help minimize the spread of illness.

What will look the same?



Our Small Class Sizes

Small class sizes are designed to maximize individual attention and student engagement.



Hands-on Learning

Our aim will be to hold classes as usual, with modifications to encourage physical distancing and increased student agency.



Enrichment Activities

We will offer as many fine arts, athletics and mission activities as possible.



What might look different?

- *Drop-off and pick-up routines*
- *On-campus dining services*
- *Extra distancing in certain courses, such as choir*



Online Learning

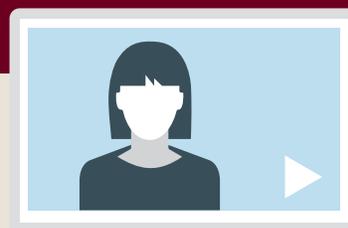
If needed, online learning will allow students to complete their coursework from home and receive instruction in a virtual format. Students will continue to be mentored and supported by teachers, and where possible, we will provide opportunities for them to collaborate with peers.



Live Instruction (synchronous)

Virtual face-to-face meetings and class times where students can interact with teachers and peers.

A mix of:



Recorded Instruction (asynchronous)

Faculty coordinated online learning opportunities.



Tests & Quizzes: In an online learning environment, traditional summative assessments (tests and quizzes) are actively being re-worked to emphasize student reflection, learning, and agency.

Physical Work: Student work will be submitted either over Google Classroom or presented over our online learning platform, preventing the need for physical work to be returned.



Online Learning Supports & Priorities

Faculty Mentors & Advisors

Creating connections to ensure students' emotional wellbeing and overall success during the transition to online learning.

Chapels & Small Groups

Fostering spiritual growth through online worship time and enriching community groups.

Online Office Hours

Providing a time for students, parents, and families to bring us their questions and individual needs.

*Online learning will be necessary for a short time if a student or a member of the student's family contracts COVID-19. If the government mandates further school closures, we are equipped to return every child to a fully online learning format.

A Safe Environment

What we're doing to keep everyone on campus healthy.



SMALL CLASS SIZES

Our school's small size allows us to easily accommodate social distancing.

**We do not have a specific limit identified, but will seek to find rooms that accommodate our larger classes. Choir, for example, can use our auditorium so we have enough space to social distance with 25-30 students. Other classes will on the average be no more than 10-12 students.*



ENCOURAGING HYGIENE

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day and be mindful of their role in stopping the spread of germs. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and in common areas for additional protection.



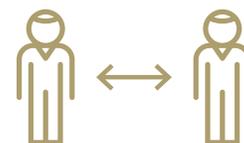
ENHANCING SANITATION

Classrooms will be sanitized between each session and common areas will be disinfected each day.



FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED

All students, faculty and visitors are required to wear a face mask or face shield. They must be worn at all times except during lunch time.



PROVIDING DISTANCE

Locker use will be limited/spread out, stairwells will be one way, and common areas will be reconfigured to ensure students are not spending time in crowded spaces.

LIFE ON CAMPUS

Planning for a Full Academic Year

FIRST

DAY OF SCHOOL

August 24, 2020

anticipated

LAST

DAY OF SCHOOL*

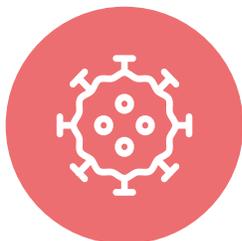
May 21, 2021

Who decides if further closures are necessary?



At present, Hillcrest Academy (the administrative team in conjunction with the school board) will make any decisions regarding on-site versus on-line learning. To this end, we are following guidelines set forth by Johnson County Public Health (JCPH), the Iowa Department of Education (IDoE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We are prepared to make informed decisions to protect the health of everyone on campus and equipped to communicate with parents and families throughout the year.

Preventing the Spread of COVID-19



- **Students & Staff:** Reliance on home self-checks and monitoring will likely to play a significant role in the health and well-being of our school community. Hillcrest has proper health and safety equipment on hand to facilitate this. We will continue to work with our local public health professionals for guidance.
- **Visitors:** Potential visitors (including parents) will need to follow established protocols (e.g. checking in at the front desk), and should call ahead of their visit. Numbers of visitors will depend on local health guidelines.

*Additional weeks may be added to the school year if disruptions occur. Scheduled staff development days may also be converted to regular school days if necessary.

STUDENT SERVICES



Creating Safe Spaces for Students to Dine

We will continue to offer delicious hot meals throughout the year! We will be taking extra precautions in the kitchen and helping students spread out while dining in the cafeteria.



Providing Safe Transportation Services

For our Washington and Iowa City shuttle service we are following the CDC, Iowa Department of Education and Johnson County Public Health guidelines to provide safe transportation for the both students and drivers to and from school.



Maintain Our Athletics Program

Our goal is to offer as many athletic opportunities as possible this year. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) to create a plan.



Nurturing Our Fine Arts Program

Fine arts programs and student clubs are vital components of the Hillcrest experience. Policies are being developed to ensure students stay safe while enjoying these enriching activities.

THE 5 STEPS OF OUR VIRTUAL ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Ready to learn how you can join the Hillcrest Academy family?



STEP 1

Download Your Prospective Parent Resource

Learn more about how your child will develop and thrive in our vibrant learning community. [Download Info Packet](#)



STEP 2

Attend a Virtual or On-Campus Visit

Whether through a virtual or on-campus tour, our admissions team is excited to walk you through our academics, extracurricular activities, and daily life at Hillcrest Academy

[Schedule Now](#)



STEP 3

Submit an Application

We encourage you to start your application at your earliest convenience as some classes may be filling up. We'll review your completed application once it's been received. Want to apply for Financial Aid? Start your application [here](#).



STEP 4

Interview and Assessment

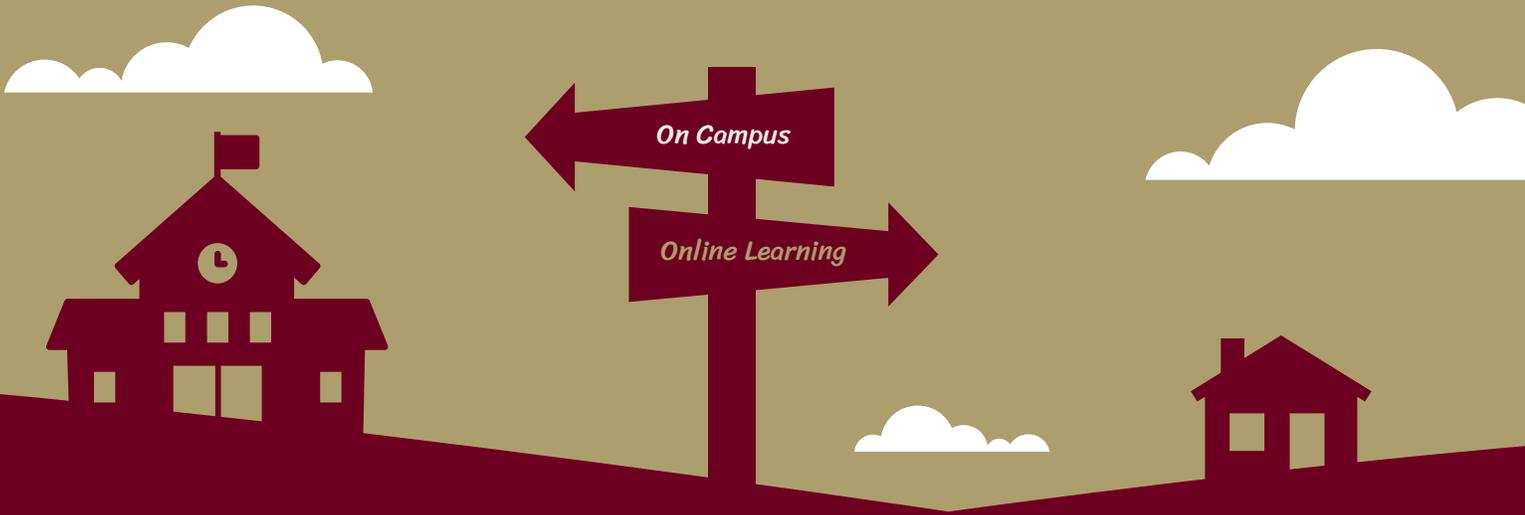
Student testing and family interviews are an important way for us to get to know each other and to answer any lingering questions. We'll be in touch to schedule these events with you.



STEP 5

Finalize Enrollment

You're almost there! After you receive your acceptance letter, please confirm that all records and paperwork have been received, and pay the enrollment fee. We're thrilled to welcome you and your child to the Hillcrest Academy family!



Questions?

We're here for you!

Contact:

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