



CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY

WWW.CORNERSTONE.TEAMCFA.ORG

Good evening Cornerstone Parents, Students, and Staff. Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! It is almost impossible to believe the sequence of events that has brought us to this unique and historic 1st day of school. However, as I sit here thinking about what tomorrow might bring, there is one thought that continues to come to mind. There is no other school at which I would want to be facing this challenge. From the day that we opened our doors 8 years ago, through the day we opened our high school, and up to the day four years ago when we opened our current building, Cornerstone has demonstrated a remarkable ability to rise to the challenges facing our school.

What our staff accomplished this summer remains nothing short of remarkable. In addition to preparing the school physically for the return of students, they built an A-Day/B-Day schedule, a remote learning program, and accommodated most all our families' needs in the process. Some of it went smoothly, some of it not. Some of what we tried worked, and some of what we put together did not. This will likely be the pattern we all need to be prepared for during the upcoming days.

There has never been a time when community has not been the centerpiece of Cornerstone. And it is in times like these that we will need to be conscious of maintaining our community so that we do not lose our identity as a school. As a staff, we have talked about several ways that we are going to do that over the next few months. We are going to assume the best intent of everyone that we encounter. We know that you as families are working as hard as we are to ensure the highest quality education for your student. We may not always see everything the same way, but we know that each of us is doing their very best for our students. Also, we know that we will make mistakes along the way as we navigate these strange times. We will see these mistakes as opportunities to grow and get better at what we are doing. We also recognize that our students and families may make mistakes as we go through the year, and we promise that we will see those errors as opportunities for our students to grow as well. We will remember, in the words of Winston Churchill, that "success is never final, and failure is not fatal."

With that being said, here are a few important reminders for the first week of school.

- (1) Please remember that tomorrow, Tuesday August 18th, is the first day of school. Because school starts on Tuesday this week, our 1st week schedule will look a little different. Tuesday will be a school day for our B Cohort. Wednesday will be the first day for A Cohort. Thursday will also be an A Cohort day, and the week will wrap up with Friday being an in school day for the B Cohort.
- (2) Attendance on the first day of school is critical, because it plays a large role in the funding of our school for the 2020-2021 school year. Please either check your email or the front page of the school website to be sure that you are counted in our attendance, and your child's seat in our school is preserved. We also anticipate having to work through a number of "start up" issues

during this first week of school. Because of this, each grade level's off-day students schedule will look a little different. I encourage our parents to pay close attention to communication from your student's teacher to make sure that you are up to date with what needs to happen on the first day.

- (3) I emailed out the campus map for 1st day arrival on Friday afternoon. Please take a minute to review that before your drive onto campus. We will be taking temperatures at the vehicles in the morning, so please be patient as we see how that will work in the first few days.
- (4) We are operating under a slightly different dismissal structure in the afternoons as students will be dismissed directly from their classrooms. It may take slightly longer to dismiss in the afternoon as students adjust to this schedule. Please bring some patience in the afternoon as we work it out. You can greatly assist this process by having the names of students you will be picking up prominently displayed on the front passenger side of your vehicle upon arrival at school.
 - (a) Elementary students will report directly to their classrooms.
 - (b) Middle School Students will go to 1st core. Their first core assignment was emailed out today. They will get their full schedule at school tomorrow.
 - (c) High school students will report to 1st period at 7:45.
- (5) There are many questions about technology distribution. Connecting students to chromebooks both internally and with remote students will occur over the course of the next few days. Please be sure to pay attention to technology communications from school in the next few days.
- (6) Please remain attentive to school announcements being communicated by both teachers and administrators. While we know the volume of communication is intense, it is critical that we communicate frequently to ensure that our plan can be effective.
- (7) The success of our plan relies heavily on making sure that we follow appropriate protocols in our school. Encourage your child to be alert to, and follow, all the protocols set out by their teachers and our staff.
- (8) If either a parent or a student is demonstrating any symptoms of COVID-19 we ask that you please stay home, contact the school, and work remotely. It is important that we know of anyone who is demonstrating symptoms, has been diagnosed, or has been exposed to COVID-19. Exposure means within 6 feet of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in excess of 15 minutes.

Finally, I want to say thank you to our families for their patience and perseverance throughout this difficult time. While we are very excited to receive students tomorrow, we remain realistic about this particular endeavor. We know that it may be a matter of time before we are forced to deal with the implications of COVID-19 in our school. When and if that time comes, I want to reassure all our families that we will respond in a way that secures the health and safety of all our students, staff, and families.

I wish you and your student nothing but the best this school year. I hope that if you need something from us that you are able to reach out directly so we may assist you. Have a great night, and more importantly, a great first day tomorrow!