



Reopening Plan for August 28, 2020

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The French American School
OF TAMPA BAY

Introduction

The purpose of this Reopening Plan is to outline the protocols, procedures and COVID-19 mitigation strategies that will need to be in place to safely return to campus as a FASTB family. While it is not a complete return to pre-COVID-19 conditions, it is a major step in that direction and allows us to resume the immersive French environment upon which this school was founded.

Because of the difficulty in predicting the future of this virus and impact on our community, this is a working document, based on current CDC guidelines and those of the Florida Department of Health, as well as input from our

network of French and independent schools and our FASTB advisor, Dr. Gaetane Michaud, Chief of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine at USF. In the days ahead, we will likely make further adjustments.

We are opening on August 28, in-person, on campus for all grade levels, guided by the plan outlined in this document. We have broken the plan into sections addressing the overall school environment, the practical operations of the school, plans to address illness and possible forced closure, communications and our adaptability to continuously learn and make adjustments as needed. All of these provisions are in place to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment in which your children can continue to grow academically, socially and linguistically. With everyone's help – staff, students and families – we can make a successful and safe return to campus for the 2020-21 school year.



Part I: Healthy Environment

The following list will help ensure a safe and healthy environment at school each day:

Entering The Building – Only essential staff and students are permitted to enter the school.

Social Distancing – We will practice social distancing in classrooms, utilizing our dividing walls, placing desks a minimum of 3 feet apart with children wearing masks, and with children staying only in their class groups throughout the day - inside, at recess or at lunch.

Wellness Policy – Prior to August 28, parents will sign the [2020-21 Student and Parent Wellness Expectations and Responsibilities](#) form, which is an agreement to monitor your children for COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home if any are detected. Each day, parents will make a verbal attestation that there are no symptoms present prior to dropping off. Children and staff receive a temperature check before entering the building in the morning and also at midday.

Face Coverings – All K & up students and staff will be required to wear face masks inside the building for the protection of others and, in preschool, when appropriate. Children will bring 3 clean cloth masks to school each day – 1 to wear upon arrival, 1 to wear after lunch and 1 as a backup. Masks will not always be required outside at recess as long as distancing is practiced. Initially, we will wear masks outside at recess as we all get used to this new environment. Families are required to wear them at drop off and pickup.

Hand Hygiene – Children will be required to wash their hands with soap and water multiple times per day and hand washing stations containing alcohol-based soap for dry washing will be available throughout the school to be used after students touch their faces or are in contact with common surfaces.

Fresh Air & A/C – Our A/C system will feature updated, hospital-grade Merv-13 filters, plus each unit will be upgraded with UV lights to further eliminate airborne contaminants. We will also utilize the outside space as much as possible.

Part I: Healthy Environment (cont.)

Cleanliness – Desks will be washed by staff and children at the middle and end of each day at a minimum; door handles, light switches, bathrooms, playground equipment and shared school materials will be disinfected and sanitized by staff throughout the day. There will be no sharing of books or supplies – we will provide a list of items to be brought from home. The entire school will be thoroughly cleaned each night.

Water – We are in the process of enhancing our water fountains with no-touch water bottle filling stations. In the meantime, we ask that students two full water bottles each day as our water fountains inside and out will not be used. Staff can help refill if more is needed. Bottles should be taken home each day and washed.

Health Center – We will have a dedicated isolation area for a child who becomes ill during the day to await pickup. Parent-Student Handbook policy on illness, notification and pick-up remains in effect.

At Home & In the Community – We ask all staff and families to continue to practice social distancing and parents to model COVID-19 mitigating strategies for your children. If you are in close contact with someone (less than 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) who has COVID-19, you must notify the school and quarantine for 14 days before returning to school.



Part II: Healthy Operations

In 2020-21, our school hours will remain 8:30am-3:00pm; Extended Care hours will be 7:30am-8:30am and 3:00pm-5:30pm. The following outlines day to day school functions from drop-off through pick-up.

Drop-off Times & Procedures:

All Grades:

**8:15-8:30 – Picnic Area/Library if
raining**

-Parents form drop-off line in cars aiming for the picnic area gate, or library door if raining. ***See map on the next page to view the flow of traffic.***

-Car pulls up to the entrance health station – parent gives a verbal attestation of good health (in accordance with the list on the [2020-21 Student and Parent Wellness Expectations and Responsibilities](#) form), which is logged by a staff member, who will also take and log the student's temperature.

-Child must have a temperature less than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius without any fever-relieving medication within the previous 6 hours.

-If no fever or illness, child immediately goes to his/her class area on the playground or picnic area. If raining, child goes immediately to classroom.

-From playground, child removes home shoes at assigned classroom door and stores them in a bag in a sealed container. Student will then put on slippers and enter the classroom. Every time a student handles their shoes to put on or take off, they will then wash hands. Student bags, water bottles and lunches will be kept separate from those of classmates.



Part II: Healthy Operations (cont.)

School Day Procedures: All Grades

-We have 4 classrooms and each will have separate recess and lunch times. Based on our enrollment and staffing, we are dividing the four classrooms into two pods: PreK & K-1 and Elementary & Middle school. Some staff will need to overlap within these pods to cover recess and provide breaks for our teachers. There may be occasions when the academic needs of some children require that they move within the pod – otherwise, the student populations of each classroom will remain separate.

--Lunch and snacks will be eaten outside. On rainy days, grades K & up will eat at their desks, preschool students will eat at cafeteria tables in the lobby.

-After lunch, students will put on a fresh mask.



-Students will use individual or disposable supplies as much as possible.

-Water fountains will not be used, indoors or outdoors. Please send in 2 bottles of water with your child and make sure all reusable water bottles go home for cleaning each day. Staff can assist with additional refills until our bottle filling stations are ready.

-Music & Me will be provided in our picnic area – other enrichment activities and field trips will be suspended.

-Physical education activities will not involve any physical contact between children.

-On campus volunteering is suspended.

Part II: Healthy Operations (cont.)

Pick-Up Procedures

- Pick-up will begin at 2:45pm
- Students will wait outside at assigned class areas
- Parents form a car line as at drop-off and child is escorted to car by staff.
- All students not picked up by 3:00 will go to Extended Care on the playground (lobby if raining), remaining in their classroom groups.
- Whenever possible, it's best if the same parent who drops off, picks up; and that older, more susceptible family members (grandparents etc.) refrain from either activity.



Extended Care Procedures

- Drop-off procedure in the morning Extended Care session is the same as regular drop off. Students will then go to the designated area and stay with classroom groups.
- After school, students will be separated by classroom, whether on the playground or inside the building.
- All protocols and procedures for the school day apply to Extended Care.

Part III: Healthy Responses

Rules & Procedures if Someone Becomes Ill or Exposed to COVID-19

-If a child becomes ill during the day, he/she will be isolated in the health center and parents will be notified to immediately pick up, in accordance with policy in the Parent-Student Handbook.

-If a staff member becomes ill during the day, he/she must go home.

-If a child is in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with someone with COVID-19, the child must stay away from school and quarantine for 14 days before returning to school (this applies to staff and family members as well), and arrangements for schoolwork will be made with the child's teacher.

-If a child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the entire school community will be notified and the school will consult with the Pinellas County Department of Health Epidemiology Program to determine the best course of action, taking into consideration the extent of exposure.

Possible outcomes include staying open, closing a classroom temporarily or closing the school temporarily. Regardless, a rigorous cleaning and sanitizing of the school, inside and out, will precede any return of students and staff.

Part IV: L'Ecole à la Maison (School at Home)



L'Ecole à la Maison, or School at Home, was a successful response to our shutdown in the spring due to COVID-19. In the event that the state of Florida or Pinellas County orders a shutdown, or if we are forced to temporarily shut down due to an internal COVID reason, School at Home will begin and our teachers will be prepared to execute the program.

If there is no forced closure, FASTB will provide in-person instruction only and there will be no School at Home option.

Part V: Communication

Because of the limitations on face to face teacher interactions with parents at drop-off and pick-up, our teachers will utilize Seesaw and will be available for periodic “office hours” via Zoom, to speak about small issues or class happenings. The specifics of timing and structure will be determined prior to the start of school. Specific private meetings for a larger issue can be arranged via Zoom as well and our school director is always available by email or phone.

We will also continue to have Parent-Teacher conferences at the end of each trimester, with the format to be determined.

News de Nous will continue to report the latest at FASTB on a weekly basis and other school-wide communications will be released to keep everyone up-to-date on any impactful changes in procedure or policy.

Additionally, our COVID-19 advisor, Dr. Gaetane Michaud, will provide presentations and tutorials to parents and children regarding washing hands, sanitation, immunizations and safe behaviors – in English and French!



Part VI: Adaptability

These protocols, and all of our dedicated adherence to them, provide our best opportunity to keep children, families and staff safe while preserving our mission to educate students in an authentically French environment that stresses social, academic and cultural growth.

There will likely be more adjustments to these protocols as we go and, as a small school, we can respond and implement changes quickly. This has been very helpful to our school in Maine, which has successfully been open since mid-May, and we anticipate the same with FASTB.

Thank you all for your support during this challenging time – we look forward to seeing you all soon and welcoming you to the new school year on August 28!



Resources

The following are links to helpful CDC recommendations for mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pinellas County Department of Health website is also included. We will provide more resources in the coming weeks as we all prepare to return to school.

Precautions to take at Home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/checklist-household-ready.html>

Cloth Face Coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

If you become ill as a Parent/Caregiver: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/parents-caregivers.html>

Managing COVID-19 Stress: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Florida Department of Health Pinellas County: <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/>

Florida Department of Health Pinellas County COVID-19 Information/Resources: <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/about-us/alerts/alert3.html>