

OPEN & ONWARD!

Subiaco Academy's Plans for a Healthy Reopening



Dear Members of the Subiaco Academy Community:

As we embark on the 2020-21 academic year, the faculty and staff of Subiaco Academy want to ensure all students and families that the health and well-being of our community is the top priority. The goal is for students, families, and staff to feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to on-site school instruction. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. This plan will be modified as needed based on information provided by the CDC and applicable federal, state, and local agencies. We will communicate these changes as soon as possible.

Subiaco Academy has been greatly challenged during momentous circumstances from the past. Horrific fires destroyed buildings, The Great Depression threatened economic conditions, and wars tore at families who needed their sons to stay home. Time and again, the Academy and monastery have “looked up to God and carried on.” I imagine that this pandemic response is one of the most difficult situations in the history of the Academy, but we are unwavering in our goal to open safely. The work of the Open & Onward! Committee has been a monumental undertaking. As our task force has worked together over the last several weeks, I have often reflected that as professionals, we find ourselves at the center of some of the biggest issues and challenges that our country is facing: health and safety; academic and business continuity; job preservation; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our objective has been to have a measured and appropriate response to the situation in order to provide a safe educational and physical environment for our students, staff, and Monastic Community. In continuing our pursuit of that objective, we are sharing the following broadly outlined new policies and procedures for the resumption of on-campus classes for the 2020-21 academic year. These plans are also subject to change as the understanding of COVID-19 and surrounding circumstances evolve. Current plan details are presented below, and more information (in Q & A format) can be found on our 2020-21 Open & Onward! webpage.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

For students who cannot come to campus due to travel restrictions, visa-related issues and health-related reasons, online instruction will be offered, including live-streaming via new classroom cameras that will allow remote users to be more directly involved in a classroom experience. We will also record and post all live classes. Additional details about these options will be provided near the beginning of school.

As we look to reopen campus amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the academic instruction section of our plan aims for a high-quality classroom experience, consistent with the program Subiaco has offered for 133 years. The strength and resilience of the Subiaco community was deeply evident when the need to shift to a remote learning experience suddenly presented itself during the spring. All facets of that endeavor, including the overwhelming success experienced under the circumstances, continue to inform our decision making regarding our academic plan for the fall. The same principles of flexibility, accessibility, and intentionality continue to guide our approach, along with an intense focus on the continuity of learning—from day to day, week to week, month to month, and semester to semester. Our priority is to avoid any kind of teaching or learning experience that feels disruptive, disconnected, or disjointed. In order to keep our students and faculty as safe as possible, we will practice social distancing whenever possible and the wearing of masks inside of all buildings—this includes the classroom. Faculty will be cleaning classrooms (desktops, doorknobs, etc.) between each class.

In the coming semester, we will implement a slight curricular shift that functions around a modified block. Students will continue to attend classes 5 days per week. Our faculty will continue to construct learning experiences that deliver instruction in various modalities that suit the needs of all learners. As the week progresses, students will rotate through all of their classes, but in our new model, a student will have some classes on Mondays and Thursdays and others on Tuesdays and Fridays with all classes meeting on Wednesdays but for shorter periods of time. The goal of this approach is to help students avoid cognitive overload and to allow for additional flexibility and catch-up time for students, should circumstances present that need. The enrichment periods built into the schedule will allow ALL students more flexibility to participate in activities as well as athletic endeavors.

Our mission remains the same: to see Christ in each student as we guide him in his response to God, aid the development of his known and hidden talents, and foster his growth into manhood. We are fully committed to finding an approach that allows us to fulfill this mission to ALL of our students. While the planning work is ongoing, we all remain excited about the new prospects on the horizon and the opportunity to forge even stronger partnerships with students along their journeys towards becoming men of faith, scholarship, character, and brotherhood.

IMPORTANT DATES

The calendar dates for the 2020-2021 Academic year are as follows:

August 2 (Sun.)	Football Players Return
August 6 (Thurs.)	ANSAA Workshop for Faculty
August 10-12	Faculty In-Service Days
August 13 (Thurs.)	1:00 pm – New Student Registration & Orientation 4:30 pm – Assembly for all new students & parents
August 14 (Fri.)	8:30 am – Testing of new students; Class Scheduling; Orientation
August 15 (Sat.)	8:00-11:30 – Registration of all returning students; Orientation 1:00 pm – Senior Ring Ceremony Practice
August 16 (Sun.)	10:30 am – Opening Mass and Ring Ceremony
August 17 (Mon.)	First Day of Classes
September 7 (Mon.)	Labor Day – No Classes
September 15 (Tues.)	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports due
September 19 (Sat.)	E-School Saturday Classes
October 2-6	Fall Break; classes in session on Fri. until 2:20 pm
October 7 (Wed.)	Classes Resume
October 9 (Friday)	Homecoming; End of First Quarter
October 13 (Tues.)	First Quarter Grades due
October 14 (Wed.)	National Testing Day
October 30-Nov. 1	Fall Parents Weekend
October 31 (Sat.)	Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 7	E-School Saturday Classes
November 10 (Tues.)	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports due
November 20 (Fri.)	Classes dismiss at 11:25 am; buses leave 11:45
November 20-Nov. 29	Thanksgiving Break
November 30 (Mon.)	Classes resume
December 13 (Sun.)	Christmas Concert & Student Christmas Dinner
December 16-18	First Semester Exams
December 18 (Friday)	End of 1st Semester/2nd Quarter; Classes dismiss at 11:25 am; buses leave 11:45
December 18-Jan. 4	Christmas Holiday Break (CLOSED CAMPUS)
January 4 (Mon.)	Faculty In-Service Day; Christmas Break ends
January 5 (Tues.)	Classes resume; 2nd Semester begins
January 31-February 5	National Catholic Schools Week
February 2 (Tues.)	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports due
February 6 (Sat.)	E-School Saturday Classes
March 5	End of Third Quarter
March 5-7	Spring Parents Weekend
March 6 (Sat.)	Parent-Teacher Conferences; Spring School Carnival
March 9 (Tuesday)	Third Quarter Report Cards due
March 20 (Sat.)	Classes dismiss at 11:25 am; buses leave 11:45
March 20-April 5	Spring/Easter Break (CLOSED CAMPUS)

April 6	Classes resume
April 10 (Sat.)	E-School Saturday Classes
April 20 (Tues.)	Mid-Quarter Progress Reports due
April 24 (Sat.)	Junior/Senior Prom
May 14-16	Closed Weekend
May 15 (Sat.)	Commencement – Class of 2021 Attendance Mandatory for all students 8:00 a.m. Mass 10:00 a.m. Graduation Ceremony
May 17-21	Classes continue for 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th Grades
May 19-21	Second Semester Exams
May 21 (Fri.)	End of 2nd Semester/4th Qtr & School Year; Classes dismiss at 11:25 am

If the public health situation or travel restrictions change, we may consider altering this academic year calendar at any point in the school year.

STUDENT PRE-ARRIVAL, ARRIVAL, AND REPOPULATION OF CAMPUS

Safety of our students, faculty, staff, and monastic population is paramount and our plans for bringing our community back together reflect this purpose. Working with our local and state officials, as well as health professionals from our on-site Mercy Clinic, we have developed the following protocols. It is crucial that we all work together to keep one another safe and healthy.

August 1-15 While testing is not required, ALL students are asked to quarantine prior to arrival on campus. This means staying at home and limiting close contact to family members ONLY for the 14 days before traveling to campus. During this time, all students will be asked to monitor themselves for any COVID-19-like symptoms.

August 13 - 15 All students will arrive on campus over the course of three days. We believe this period will be critical as it will bring the most number of people to campus at one time. Plans are in place to layer protective mitigating practices including distancing, handwashing, room sanitization, mask-wearing, and more. We ask that you respect our policies and procedures, knowing that we are dedicated to keeping Subiaco Academy open and students in classes for the 2020-2021 school year.

- **Masks are required for students, faculty, staff, and family members at all times. Please help us keep our older population safe.** Face masks can be procured at the Academy front desk if needed.
- Families who wish to do so will be able to ship belongings to campus ahead of time, to be delivered to student rooms. All shipments can be sent to Subiaco Academy, 405 N Subiaco Avenue, Subiaco, AR 72865 in care of your student’s name.
- A student may be accompanied by one person in the residence halls. Subiaco faculty and staff will be available to provide assistance. Please plan to stay the minimum time required to move your student into his room.

Daily Arrival All students will receive a Subiaco Academy mask at registration. Masks are required in all buildings, in all classrooms, and between classes.

Day students utilizing Subiaco transportation will be required to have a mask prior to entering the bus. The temperature of each student will be taken prior to loading. Students with temperatures at or above 100 F will be asked to return home. Temperatures will be taken with a temporal (forehead) thermometer.

ALL students will be required to start their day in the Academy lobby. Temperatures and observations of vitals will be done by Subiaco Academy personnel. Students exhibiting symptoms will not be allowed to attend class but will be evaluated further by the Academy's school nurse. Faculty in the first class of the day will verify that all students have been appropriately screened prior to entering the classroom.

Drop-off students are required to be dropped at the student parking lot behind Wardlaw Hall. Drop off families are asked to not carpool or share rides without masks on at all times.

Visitors to campus will be restricted based on state and federal guidelines. If you have a need to be on campus, please call the person you intend to see in order to determine current guidelines.

Students who may have been exposed or are exhibiting symptoms OR who have family members exposed or exhibiting symptoms are asked to stay home. Real-time online classes are available to any student isolating at home. If you believe your student should stay home due to suspected symptoms, please notify the Academy's school nurse, Barbara Wilhelm at 479 934 1009.

CAMPUS LIFE

Athletics Subiaco Academy is anxious to start fall sports as scheduled but will follow all Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Activities Association guidelines regarding the opening of fall sports.

Arts Although this year will look very different, Subiaco Academy's arts programs will also be following all mandates from the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Activities Association.

Dining Subiaco Academy will follow protocols to help ensure student and employee safety. The cafeteria will remain open with the practice of social distancing, and the use of hand sanitization and proper spacing at the lunch tables. We are installing Plexiglas barriers at all of our tables as well as in the serving line. Proper cleaning and sanitizing will take place before and after every meal. In order to ensure safety in the cafeteria there will be assigned seating.

DAILY GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

When we reopen the school, all individuals on the Subiaco Academy campus will be required to wear a facial covering at all times unless they are in the act of eating, sleeping, showering, brushing teeth, or other times of self-care. We believe wearing a facial covering is the most important tactic that we can employ to have a significant impact on our community's sustained health. This will be part of our community agreement as we come back together, and it is critical that we have the support of all

students, parents, and employees in this effort. All members of the Subiaco community will be required to commit to their own health and also the health of others as we foster a culture of safety and shared responsibility. Opportunities for safe “mask breaks” are being considered and that process will be communicated to students as part of orientation. The Academy will permit exceptions to mask/face covering requirements for those for whom it is not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors.

Our first priority is and has always been to protect the health of each member of the Subiaco community. This goal must be shared by all members of our on-campus community, as well as by all our current parents. To unite our community in the goal of exercising caution to reduce our health risks, each student will sign and abide by the rules set forth by the Subiaco Academy Administration. This is the first step in creating a safe campus for everyone and a reminder that our collective efforts will help to maintain a safe campus for all students, faculty, and staff. This will begin with the mandate that all students, faculty, and staff wear masks while on campus unless in their own office with the door closed, in a dorm room, performing self-care, or actively eating.

During this period of face-to-face learning, we are requiring all community members to practice personal safety practices including the wearing of face masks on all areas of campus; increased personal hygiene practices including the frequent use of hand sanitizer; and adherence to safe physical distancing practices, including following all safety instructions and signage throughout campus. In addition to these practices, the facilities and spaces on campus will be thoroughly sanitized on a daily basis using a disinfecting machine.

SCREENING

Subiaco Academy will have a daily screening process for all students, faculty, and staff. Through this process, all constituents will be required to complete a mandatory daily health check. The Academy is currently evaluating several options that we may use to implement this plan.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

In the event that a student becomes infected with or exposed to COVID-19, the Academy is preparing limited quarantine and isolation spaces, and we will be following CDC guidelines and work with our medical team to refine these plans. Contact tracing, as described more fully below, will be performed to identify any close contacts on campus requiring quarantine.

CONTACT TRACING

We are working on a process and identifying a system for contact tracing for individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19, as that will be a key component of slowing the spread of the virus. We anticipate that this will be done with a combination of interviewing and investigating, combined with the latest available technology and in collaboration with the local Board of Health. We plan to update the community with further plans as we near the start of the school year.

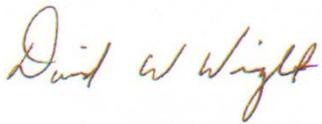
GENERAL HEALTH CENTER

Essential services will continue in the current Health Center; however, the look and feel of the space will be different to ensure physical distancing, mask-wearing, and other preventative measures. The Academy will keep essential health services running while also taking measures to keep students safe in the COVID-19 pandemic. We will provide additional information regarding these services, including the dispensing of medications and other routine services, which will continue 24/7 while school is in session.

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We recognize that these are uncertain times, and we are committed to our mission of providing our students with an exceptional educational environment. Complying with the new health and safety guidelines will require significant additional effort on the part of everyone involved—the school, our staff, students, and families. But we are eager to reopen and see everyone in person again, even though we will be wearing masks and physically distancing. We are all working towards the goal of Open and Onward! We are all part of a special school, and we will approach these responsibilities together as one community, one school, and one Subiaco family.

Open & Onward! and God Bless!

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "David Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Wright, Ed.D.
Headmaster