



## 2022-2023 BACK-TO-SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

CAACS school leadership has continued to work tirelessly throughout the summer to review and revise updated policies and guidance that will provide clarity, cohesion, and stability as we move towards reopening our school for in-person instruction in September. The number one priority of Cultural Arts Academy Charter School (CAACS) is maintaining the health and well being of our scholars, staff, and families.

We continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, and take guidance from the NYS Department of Health, the NYC DOHMH, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are grateful for the full support of the CAACS Board of Trustees, our CAACS families, and the CAACS Staff as we plan for the health, safety and welfare of our scholars, staff, and families.

I want to personally thank our school leaders, as well as you, our families. Your feedback helped us to shape our policies. We know that clear and consistent communication with our families is important to positioning our scholars and school for success! **The 2022-2023 CAACS Reopening Plan** provides an overview of COVID-19 health and safety protocols that will be in place at Cultural Arts Academy Charter School for the new school year. **This guidance will be evaluated and adjusted as the situation evolves and as new guidance from health and government officials is received.**

*As we enter a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, with increased access to COVID-19 information, vaccination, testing, and treatment, CAACS is changing our strategy for the 2022-2023 school year.*

### **Vaccination is an effective way to reduce COVID-19 risk.**

- Vaccination is still required for all visitors entering the CAACS building
- Vaccination is still required for all CAACS employees
- Vaccination is still required to participate in our afterschool PeacePlayers Basketball program, as it is a high-risk extracurricular activity.

- The CAACS building has HVAC upgrades in alignment with CDC guidance, and an additional air purifier is in each classroom.
- Routine deep cleaning of surfaces will be continual.
- **Daily Health Screening** will no longer be required to enter the CAACS school building.
- **Stay home if sick:** Students and staff should stay home if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses and get tested for COVID-19.
- **Isolate if you or your scholar(s) test positive for COVID 19:** Scholars and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days and can return to school on day 6 if they have no symptoms. They must wear mask until DAY 10 after symptoms began, or date of positive test, whichever is earlier.
- Positive cases must still be reported to the school.
- ***Starting the first day of school***, CAACS will provide home test kits to those with a potential in-school exposure and those with symptoms.
- In addition, each staff and scholar will receive 4 tests per month to take home (one per week). These tests can be used by families for testing due to symptoms, exposures, high-risk activity, (*such as travel and large gatherings*) and can provide immediate results.
- We will no longer have weekly In-school weekly testing for the 2022-23 school year.
- ***While face masks are strongly recommended, masking is optional for now.***

**CAACS will provide IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION ONLY**, while keeping our scholars and staff safe, by using the latest guidance issued by the local and state health departments. **Our scholars benefit from in-person learning**, and safely returning to in-person instruction is a priority here at CAACS. Based upon the current guidelines provided, CAACS will begin the school year in our traditional school setting as safely as possible. It is important that all staff and families properly monitor their own symptoms and conduct screenings prior to attending school or work for the safety of themselves and others.

**IN-PERSON LEARNING for scholars in all grades begins SEPTEMBER 6, 2022.**

**Monday thru Thursday – 7:30am – 3:30pm**

**Fridays – Dismissal is at 2:30pm**

*(See the updated 2022-2023 School Calendar for details).*

Scholars and families should anticipate the rigorous academic classes and scholarship they have come to expect from Cultural Arts Academy Charter School. To address learning loss and social emotional learning, academic intervention and supports will be embedded deeply into the school day for our most struggling CAACS students. In fact, this summer, over 70 of our CAACS scholars experienced unprecedented success in our summer learning camp! After 24 days of intense learning, each scholar was given a post assessment to determine their growth in areas of ELA and Math. **Our scholars grew in**

each subject area; some from below basic level to basic level; and, others grew from basic level to full proficiency. The data proves that **small group and targeted instruction** will promote growth and take our scholars at CAACS to the next level of their growth and development. Our professors executed this curriculum aggressively to increase scholars' performance in these subject areas. Scholars will move forward with readiness and confidence in the subject areas taught (Math and E.L.A).

#### **ADDITIONAL IN-PERSON INFORMATION**

- All CAACS scholars must be up to date with all mandatory school immunizations.
- Scholars must wear their uniforms every day.
- CAACS will offer the **Apollo Afterschool Program** to families-in-need. Registration and payment information will be communicated in a separate email.
- All **Special Education services** will be delivered in-person. External providers will also be required to follow all CAACS health, safety and vaccination policies.
- **Water fountains have been replaced with bottle-fillers.** Scholars must bring a water bottle every day.
- **All families must have a Plan B;** that is, friends, neighbors, extended family members, and acquaintances who will be able to pick your child(ren) up from school if they become ill or provide childcare for you if we have to pivot to online instruction, so you can still go to work.
- **On “Snow days”** or days when school is closed due to an emergency, all CAACS scholars will participate in CAACS-Online.
- **Student-led Parent Conferences will be online for now.** Your scholar’s teacher will work with you to schedule your conference.
- Email and our website will provide families with the most up-to-date information regarding school operations policies, upcoming events, and announcements.

#### **Medically Necessary Instruction -**

**<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/programs/medically-necessary-instruction>**

Every year, there are some students with medical conditions that necessitate interim educational services outside of the school building. These services are offered for school-aged children (from 3K to grade 12) in all five boroughs, and can include individual in-person instruction by a certified teacher, or individual and group instruction by certified teachers through digital platforms.

Taking COVID-19 into consideration, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has determined that students who have one of the following conditions would be provisionally approved for medically necessary instruction:

- Active Cancer
- Chronic Renal Diseases
- Sickle Cell
- Gastro/Crohn’s Disease
- Thalassemia
- Leukemia
- Metabolic Disorders

- Heart Conditions
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Adrenal Disorder
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Liver Disease
- Tumor
- Congenital Lung Disease
- Congenital Heart Condition
- Lymphoma
- Cerebral Ataxia
- Seizures
- Stroke
- Multiple Sclerosis

Any family with a student who is immunocompromised due to a medical condition or treatment for an orthopedic, non-orthopedic/medical, or psychiatric reasons a medical condition may apply for medically necessary instruction. Applications from families with any condition not listed will undergo review to determine eligibility.

#### **VISITOR CONTROL POLICY**

ALL VISITORS to the CAACS Building are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, in order to enter the building, except in the case of an emergency (*police, fire department personnel, etc.*). In order to enter the building, a visitor must:

- Show identification
- Provide proof of vaccination.
- Complete the daily health screening form.
- Submit to a temperature check.
- Sanitize hands upon entering and leaving.
- Wear a mask for the duration of the visit.

#### **Exception for Visitors Policy to the CAACS Building**

“Visitor” means an individual who will be physically present in our CAACS building.

The following are the only EXCEPTIONS TO THE VISITOR POLICY:

- Our CAACS Scholars
- Our CAACS Parents or guardians of scholars who are conducting registration or enrollment for their scholars, or for other purposes identified by CAACS as essential to our scholar(s)' education and unable to be completed virtually (online);
- Individuals entering our CAACS building for the limited purpose to deliver or pick up items;
- Individuals present in our CAACS school building to make repairs at times when our scholars are not present in the building;
- Individuals responding to an emergency, including police, fire, emergency medical services personnel,

- Others who need to enter the building to respond to or pick up a scholar who is experiencing an emergency.

As our city, our country, the world, and our school is continuing to recover and heal from the COVID-19 global pandemic, and as we prepare to enter a new school year, we know that things will never be the same; *but they can be better.* CAACS has turned this crisis into an opportunity to reimagine all aspects of our vision and mission differently. It has allowed us to examine how we can use creativity and innovation to be more responsive to the needs of every scholar, staff member, and family. **We are #CAACSRedwoodStrong**, and because of you, we are fully prepared for this new school year. *See you soon!*