

CULTURAL ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL



2021-2022 REOPENING PLAN FOR FAMILIES

Dear CAACS Families,

CAACS school leadership has continued to work tirelessly throughout the summer to review and revise policies 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 are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and taking 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, the CAACS Parent Association, 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 2021-2022 CAACS Reopening Plan** provides an overview of COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place at Cultural Arts Academy Charter School. This guidance will be evaluated and adjusted as the situation evolves and as new guidance from health and government officials is received.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

All scholars will have a **Blended Schedule from September 7 - September 10, 2021 ONLY**.
(See the 2021-2022 School Calendar for details).

IN-PERSON LEARNING for scholars in all grades begins **SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**.

Days and Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday, 7:30am – 3:30pm

*Fridays – 8am – 3:00pm - CAACS Online (All Grades)

***Every Friday** is a **FULL DAY OF CAACS ONLINE** instruction (*except for school closure*) because Fridays are a **mandatory Professional Learning Day for all CAACS Staff**.

Key Takeaways

- 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.
- CAACS will continue to screen staff and scholars at the beginning of each school day. 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.
- *At this time*, **masks will continue to be mandatory** and **social distancing will be implemented** for all K through grade 5 scholars and **including while traveling on a bus**.
- CAACS will continue its efforts toward **effective protocols**: daily cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, mask requirements, handwashing, etc.
- CAACS will continue to establish routines and protocols for entrances, exits, and public spaces to maximize distancing to the greatest extent possible during scholars' transitions during the school day.

- Scholars and families should anticipate a return to 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 both during and after the school day for our most struggling CAACS students.

IN-PERSON INFORMATION

- All CAACS scholars must be up to date with all mandatory school immunizations.
- Scholars must wear their uniforms every day.
- Generally, classes will be organized according to social distancing guidelines.
- Grab-and-go meals will be available for breakfast and lunch on school days. Scholars are also permitted to bring their own lunch. Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in classrooms or outside if weather permits, in accordance with social-distancing guidelines, to minimize interactions between scholars.
- CAACS will allow students to remove their face coverings for mask breaks for brief periods of scheduled time. These mask breaks will be offered throughout the day at our discretion and will be planned.
- *For now, based on the data we have,* every grade level will have their own teacher.
- All SPED services will be delivered in-person.
- **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 so you can still go to work.
- On the **2021-2022 School Calendar** – Dates and information are subject to change.
- **NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - Election Day, will be a full day of online learning** for all scholars.
- **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 virtual 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.

Helpful Resources

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page>

As our city, our country, the world, and our school are beginning to re-emerge 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 fuse technology with our own creativity and innovation to be more responsive to the needs of every scholar and family. We are #CAACSRedwoodStrong, and because of you, we are fully prepared for the brave new world we are entering. *See you soon!*

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie B. Midgette, Founding Principal
Cultural Arts Academy Charter School at Spring Creek