

Covid-19 Opening & Operating Plan

We feel confident in providing a unique educational experience to help your child be successful. However, we ask for your input, patience, and flexibility as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic together. We have been working with officials from other schools and school districts, alongside the health department to provide a plan of action.

Our school program has a maximum of 25 students, split among three classrooms, and they do not utilize any public transportation (i.e., school busses). This reduces our risk of a COVID-19 outbreak tremendously. With frequent hand washing, sanitizing procedures, and preventive measures in place, we feel we can effectively create a safe environment to prevent a spread of COVID-19 within our school. Though we cannot provide a 100% guarantee against a spread, we can only work to reduce the risks. We ask that you work with us to help create a “safe bubble” for our students. This can be done by following the CDC recommendations regarding the use of a mask, hand washing, and practicing social distancing while in public locations. **IF ANYONE in your family begins to experience any symptoms, we ask that you keep your child home and monitor the situation for symptoms to worsen/fever to develop.**

If you keep your child home to monitor for the development of symptoms, and your child will be out longer than two days, your child will be encouraged to access our online platform. Additionally, we can schedule a video conference with your child that day. Your child can receive credit for attendance if they participate in the online model during this time. Participation is essential to maintain state scholarship status.

The following risk prevention methods will be implemented immediately at Upward Trend Academy:

- any outside therapists or adults entering the building must always have a mask on and will not be permitted into the classrooms
- all staff must wear protective face coverings while in the classrooms
- all children entering the building will need to have their temperature taken, and hands washed
- parents will be encouraged to drop off and pick up their child from outside the school
- staggered start and dismissal will be implemented to start to reduce the number of people in one area at a time.
- Classrooms and other spaces utilized by students will be sanitized before the start of the school day and again at recess when students are outside and after dismissal.
- Air filtration with UV lights have been added to all of the rooms and will run 24/7.
- Classes will have minimal contact with one another in the beginning to reduce the possibilities of cross-contamination. Times in the café or playground will be limited to one class at a time.
- All classes will begin the school year, learning about proper handwashing and procedures to help eliminate the spread of germs. We will also educate students on how to use our online platform and work on attending to a speaker through a screen, in case we need to go that route.
- Families will be required to answer a COVID questionnaire each Monday
- face coverings are *recommended* for students but are not mandatory. Please let us know if this is a goal for your child, and we can work on building tolerance for the mask and put a desensitization program in place. There are some less invasive options, such as face shields/hats with face coverings. We respect this is a sensitive topic for many families, but an area that has gained much social significance. We want to work with each family to decide what is the best protocol for them.

Staggered Start/Dismissal:

- **Room 2:** Drop Off: 8:00-8:05 & Pick Up: 2:10-2:15
- **Room 1:** Drop Off: 8:05-8:10 & Pick Up: 2:15-2:20
- **Room 3:** Drop Off: 8:10-8:15 & Pick Up: 2:20-2:25

- Parents and students will be greeted outside from staff members during this time. Students will be escorted into the building where their temperature is taken, and they are to wash their hands. Any student with a 100.4 temperature or higher will be sent home to be monitored.

If Someone Develops Symptoms....

- If anyone in the Upward Trend Academy family (staff, student, or parent) develops symptoms, we ask that you please get tested and disclose the results to us. If a positive case arises among someone, we will disclose the information to you and provide your family with the option of using our online platform until you feel safe and comfortable again.
- If 2 or more Upward Trend Academy staff or students, result in a positive test, we will close the school and utilize our online platform for 14 days then reopen our physical location. This platform is ready to go and is loaded with instructional content for each class to engage in a full day of learning.

Guidance from the State

- If the State of Florida closes schools, then we must follow. During this time, we will utilize our online learning plan with hopes of reopening quickly.
- If the district changes the start of school, we will follow

*we understand digital learning formats are not ideal for our population. We have done intensive research and planning to put together a platform that we hope can still provide quality instruction during these trying times.

** We also understand everyone reacts to the COVID-19 virus differently, and we will work with your family on an individual basis to ensure instructional time is not lost. We know this is a stressful time and want to remain a team and work through this trying time together.

Again, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this trying time. We hope these extra precautions can be faded out sooner than later. Please remember to take the survey above. This is a fluid document and will be updated regarding changes from the state/CDC and with your input.

Thanks, Amy & Lindsay!

