

Tidewater Academy's School Reopening Plan for August 2020
Frequently Asked Questions

- (1) We received the letter stating that a plan was developed. When will that plan be released? [Tidewater Academy's Plan to Reopen 2020-2021 is posted at www.tawarriors.org](http://www.tawarriors.org).
- (2) School systems around us are going to be going virtual the first 9 weeks. Other schools are going on staggered days. What will the school hours be for our students? Is there any expected change to the calendar that has been released? [Lower School hours are 8:00-2:45 and Middle School and Upper School hours are 8:00-3:00](#). There are no changes to the 2020-21 academic calendar.
- (3) My child rides the bus. What will the process be to get students on the bus and safely to school while adhering to social distancing? [The bus drivers will perform a temperature check with a forehead scanner before each student boards the bus, students will wear masks on the bus, and student seating will be staggered so that social distancing is practiced](#).
- (4) I drop my child off at school. Will that process be any different than in previous years? [When students arrive at school, they will have their temperature checked with a forehead scanner prior to entering a building. This check will be done while the student is still in the car. If any of the children in the car have a temperature of 100.4° F or higher, all of the children will be sent home. Teachers will be in classrooms to receive students. Parents will not be allowed to enter the buildings to walk children to their classes](#).
- (5) My child drives to school. What will they do when they arrive at school? [When students arrive to school they will have their temperature checked with a forehead scanner prior to entering a building \(unless there is inclement weather\). Teachers will be in classrooms to receive students](#).
- (6) I know that the hallways are crowded between classes. How will social distancing be enforced? [Students will not change classes. Teachers will rotate classes so that there is very little interaction in the hallways](#).
- (7) How will PE classes be handled? I know there is shared equipment. [There will not be shared equipment. Students will participate outside if weather permits, and will socially distance as much as possible during class. Students will use the locker rooms to change into PE clothes and are expected to wear masks while there](#).
- (8) My child has multiple friends at their lunch table. Can tables be spread out to make sure there is a safe distance between students? [Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms. There will also be tables outside that teachers may allow students to use for lunch if weather permits. Social distancing is expected or masks are expected to be worn](#).

(9) Will my child be wearing a mask all day? Desks will be positioned at a distance from one another (6 feet where possible) and shields will be in place on all desks; students may take their mask off when at their desk. Until a student is seated at their desk or if a student leaves their desk, the mask must be worn. Students will be required to wear masks when leaving a classroom. Students will also be required to wear a mask in the classroom at the teacher's request.

(10) Will there be any revisions to the student Code of Conduct regarding personal space? Yes. A COVID -19 Rule has been added to the Student Code of Conduct that specifies consequences for unwanted imposing on others' personal space, for intentional tampering with personal protective equipment (e.g., face coverings), and for other actions deemed as efforts to intentionally increase others' risk of infection.

(11) My child is in preschool. What can I expect? It will definitely look different, however, we will try to keep it as normal as possible. Students will be placed at tables and will be distanced from one another. Table shields will be in place for each child. Toys will be limited so that they can be cleaned daily. Children will still be provided outdoor activity time.

(12) Do you have a nurse on staff? We are very excited to have a full-time, experienced school nurse on campus, every school day!

(13) If my child has symptoms, what do I do? Please follow the instructions from the Virginia Department of Health: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/04/VDH-Exposed-to-COVID-19-ENG-.pdf>

(14) If a teacher or student in my child's class tests positive, what happens next? Parents will be notified by TA's COVID Team. That child will not be permitted to return to school until he/she produces a medical clearance. Children who have been exposed to that child will be advised of symptoms for which they should be monitored. In certain cases, additional steps may be taken. Please follow recommendations from the Virginia Department of Health (see item #13).

(15) As a parent, I work in a close contact environment. Do I need to report to school if a coworker tests positive? Parents are to alert school if they have reason to suspect they may have an exposure or test positive for COVID-19. Please follow recommendations from the Virginia Department of Health (see item #13), or otherwise follow his/her medical provider's instructions. Students with family members who test positive for COVID-19 should also quarantine and participate in school virtually until these steps are complete.

(16) Do I need to report to school if a family member tests positive? Parents are to alert school if they have reason to suspect they may have an exposure or test positive for COVID-19. Please follow recommendations from the Virginia Department of Health (see item #13), or otherwise follow his/her medical provider's instructions. Students with family members who test positive for COVID-19 should also quarantine and participate in school virtually until these steps are complete.

(17) We have high risk members of our family. I don't know that we are ready for in-person instruction at this time. What is the best way to get signed up for virtual classes? Contact TA and speak with Ms. Francis or Ms. Conaway to get set up for virtual learning.

(18) How will missed days due to COVID be factored into the attendance policy? A student will not be penalized if days were missed due to COVID, whether due to illness or quarantining due to an exposure. Students will be required to have a doctor's release to return to school.

(19) Have decisions been made regarding athletics? Discussions related to athletics are ongoing among member schools in the Virginia Colonial Conference (VCC). No decisions about athletics will be made prior to school opening in August. In addition to the health and safety of students and staff, TA's priority is ensuring safe face-to-face instruction.

(20) What would make TA transition to 100% virtual learning? Decisions by state government officials could force schools around the commonwealth to terminate face-to-face instruction. Should there be a trend toward an outbreak, the TA COVID planning team will respond as necessary.

(21) What do I need to be prepared if TA transitions to a virtual learning approach? A device that can be used to connect to the internet to access Zoom, Google Classroom and other online learning resources as assigned.

(22) What is the virtual instructional platform TA has decided to use? Google Classroom and Zoom (for video)

(23) How will students be introduced to that platform? Students will receive instruction from their teachers. Teachers are encouraged to utilize the platform even during the face-to-face delivery to provide students access to resources and to reduce printing.

(24) Are teachers prepared to transition to a virtual learning approach if we are required to do so? Teachers will receive Preservice Professional Development prior to school starting. Each will be ready to use Google Classroom should there be a transition to virtual learning.

(25) Are there plans for what a virtual day will look like? Yes. There will be a schedule for Middle and Upper School students and all classes will not be delivered each day. The Lower School plan is in development.

(26) How can I know that virtual learning approach at TA will be special and have value? Should TA transition to 100% virtual instruction, we intend for teachers to report to their classrooms to deliver instruction virtually. Instruction will adhere to the planned curriculum, student attendance will be assessed, assignments will be graded, adherence to due dates will be expected, and school administrators will be monitoring to ensure academic success of students.

(27) I'm worried TA will stop face-to-face instruction and will go virtual. Why should I pay tuition to TA when there are free options for virtual learning?

Tidewater Academy will engage students with experiences that continue the planned learning program and will help them stay connected with teachers and classmates. Students will receive a balance of on-screen and off-screen tasks that will connect to previous learning and the current curriculum. Our class sizes are small and our dedicated teachers choose to invest richly in each student. We are very proud that despite an abrupt transition to virtual learning in Spring 2020, 100% of TA students passed their AP calculus exams; this is a great example of the commitment of our teachers that endures beyond in-person instructional delivery!