



MOVING AHEAD TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Guidance and Requirements for Onsite Instruction

We understand some of these changes are significant, and we are asking for everyone's patience and grace as we implement them during this unprecedented time.

AOA will implement appropriate distancing, but will also seek to preserve the uniqueness of the Alpha Omega family community:

- AOA will keep classes in cohorts as much as is reasonably possible, maintaining separation between grade levels and/or class groups to limit cross-exposure across grades or groups.
- It should be understood that physical distancing can be implemented to the degree possible. Physical distancing will not be possible at all times and that at times students will be in close proximity to one another.
- AOA will be implementing new routines and habits, which will at least include:
 - Sanitizing and disinfecting procedures, such as requiring all students to sanitize hands when entering school buildings at the start of the school day, and disinfecting desk tops / common surfaces between class change.
 - Controlled locker access, group-distance lunches, and modified dismissal practices, to reduce large-group interactions.
- School-day access for visitors will require new procedures, including screening and potential limited access; these procedures will be in place to try and provide a means of continued parent involvement in student life.

AOA will implement the following face-covering requirements:

- Students 3rd grade and below are not required to wear masks.
- Faculty, staff, and students 4th grade and older will be required to wear masks or face coverings in the hallways as they transition to different areas of the school. Masks and face coverings will be optional for all students within the classrooms.
 - There will be consideration made for at-risk teachers and students on a case by case situation.

Parents are expected to monitor their students and ensure that they do not send their child to school if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms according to CDC guidelines or have been lab-tested as positive for COVID-19.

Parents will be required to sign a COVID-19 waiver prior to the start of school.

Addressing and Mitigating Suspected or Positive COVID-19 Cases

AOA seeks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus and recommends the following:

- Students and employees must self-screen for symptoms before coming onto campus each day, including a temperature check.

- AOA will follow recommended hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing, sanitizing, and disinfecting.
- If a student or employee displays COVID-19 symptoms while at school, the individual will be cared for at the new nurse's station. The student will then be evaluated for symptoms and parents/guardians will be called to pick up him/her.
- The other classroom parents will be notified that a student went home sick and is in initial evaluation phase.

In response to symptoms or a lab-tested positive case:

- Parents must ensure that a child is not sent to school if the child has COVID-19 listed symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- AOA will specifically disinfect the room(s) and/or areas that have been exposed.
- The classroom parents will be notified of the COVID-19 exposure.
- The classroom and teacher will cohort at school as strictly as possible.
- AOA will communicate to families, employees and the local health department (as per requirements) of a lab-confirmed case.

To return to school after a lab-tested positive case:

- Employees/students who test positive must remain at home and can return to school once the following criteria are met:
 - The individual has remained in quarantine for 10 days from onset of symptoms
 - The individual is at least 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications.
 - The individual has improvement in symptoms.
 - Exceptions to these criteria will require a physician's written diagnosis of other illnesses (i.e. ear infection, strep throat, flu) or two separate written COVID-19 negative test results administered 24 hours apart.
- Faculty will accommodate students experiencing extended illness absences with appropriate resources and support to maintain current progress while home.
 - Absences will not count against students during the stay-at-home period.

Logistical Adjustments and Updates on different areas of school

MORNING CARE, EARLY CHECK-OUT, PICK-UP, AND AFTERCARE

Morning Drop off:

- Student drop-off begins at 7:30 AM in the designated drop-off areas.
 - Pre-K thru K – the main office door
 - 1st thru 2nd – 1st and 2nd grade building (FOHC parking lot)
 - 3rd thru 5th – Event Entrance
 - 6th thru 12th – Porte Cochere (east side of AOA bldg.)
- Siblings should be dropped off at the youngest sibling's location

Early Check Out:

- Parents will call the front office to request their child to check out.
- Parents will then notify the office when they have arrived on campus.
- The child will be released when the parent is visible outside the front office.

Pick-up

- Before leaving the classroom, each student will assist in sanitizing their own area with disinfectant.
- Once the teacher returns from pick-up, they will conduct a final cleansing of all common areas of the classroom (white boards, pencil sharpeners, doorknobs, etc.).
- At the pick-up lines, students will be physically distanced to whatever degree possible.
- Parents are required to stay in their vehicles through the car lines, and students will be placed in each vehicle by AOA faculty.

Aftercare

- Students in aftercare will need to refrain sharing water or snacks.
- Aftercare students will cohort to the extent possible.

CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES

Classrooms:

- All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, wipes, and paper towels.
- Common areas will be cleaned and sanitized by AOA personnel. Janitorial staff will clean again at the end of the school day.
- Classroom doors, as well as non-fire hallway doors, will be kept open as much as possible to allow ventilation and airflow and to reduce touching of common areas.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in strategic locations throughout the building in common areas.

Facilities:

- Emergency Response Drills will be modified to maintain proper physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Assembly and Chapel services are essential parts of AOA school life. We will implement a schedule that promotes community while maintaining safety precautions.
- Lockers for 6th-12th grade students will be accessible on a rotating basis throughout the day.

LUNCHES

- Another lunch time (totaling four lunches) will be implemented to accommodate greater distancing.
- Lunches will be served in the commons and will include a new seating arrangement by classes to help distancing and cohorting.
- Lunches will be available to order through RenWeb by the week this school year.
- Lunch visitors will not be allowed due to space in the lunch room.
- Lunch deliveries will not be allowed. Students should bring a sack lunch or order from RenWeb.

PARENTS, GUESTS, AND VISITORS

- Any visitor (a person who is neither a student nor AOA personnel) to the campus may be required to complete a health screening form.
- Visitors will be expected to wear a mask while on campus.
- Appointments should be made to meet with school staff, teachers, and administration.

LOST AND FOUND

- It is very important that all school items, including jackets and other items of clothing, be labeled with the first and last name of the student.
- All lost items will be secured in the nurse's office where the items will be sanitized and held for only one week.
- After one week, items will be donated to a local charity.

TRANSPORTATION, PE, ATHLETICS

Transportation:

- Field trips will be re-evaluated after Labor Day.
- School vehicles will be disinfected after each use.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and used by each student prior to boarding and after unloading.

P.E. and Recess:

- Physical contact will be limited during Physical Education classes.
- Physical Education and recess will be held outdoors as often as possible.
- Recreational and sports equipment will be regularly cleaned and sanitized.

Athletics:

- AOA will comply with all guidelines provided by the state of Texas as well as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS).
- If interscholastic sports are not permitted, AOA will explore the development of club/intramural programs.

- Athletes, coaches, staff, and participants will be given the option to wear a cloth face covering when not actively engaged in physical activity or when they may be near other people (i.e., less than 6 ft.).
- Student athletes must understand that there is to be absolutely no shared personal athletic equipment (water bottles, towels, clothing, shoes, etc.).
- Individual clothing/towels must be washed and cleaned after every workout/game.
- All athletic equipment including balls must be cleaned after each practice or game and prior to the next workout/game

WATER

- Water fountains will not be operational.
- Students will bring their own water bottles labeled with their name.

The administration will continually re-evaluate these protocols as the year advances, and we will communicate with you as circumstances change.

If you have any questions specifically about the Grammar school and students, please contact Robin Williamson at williamson@alphaomegaacademy.org.

If you have any questions specifically about the Secondary school and students, please contact Nolan Neugebauer at nneugebauer@alphaomegaacademy.org.

