



CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY

K-12 College Preparatory School

Dr. Stuart Chen, President

Member of
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Accredited by
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

August 10, 2020

Dear CCA Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters along with the rest of the world, let us drink deep from the living water that Christ gives and cling to God's promises,

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.” (Jer. 17:7-8 NRSV)

I hope your summer is going well. We look to God with anticipation as we plan vigorously to begin a school year like no other and to witness and testify with praise on our lips how the Lord will work through everyone in the CCA community.

The 2019-2020 yearbooks finally arrived as printers have resumed operating. Yearbooks can be picked upon on CCA Day (Sept. 8), or you are welcome to stop by our main office 8 AM-3 PM Monday-Friday. Even before the last school year ended, my June 24 email to our faculty stated that: “we will need to be ready nimbly to toggle on short notice among each of the following three distinct scenarios for the 2020-2021 academic year:

1. Socially distanced (e.g., 6 feet between desks) on-campus at CCA.
2. Remote (a.k.a. Distance) learning for either a brief (1-2 week) period or for an extended period,
3. Some kind of hybrid or blended combination of #1 and #2.

Scenario #1 is our selected preference five days per week, with scenario #2 only if conditions warrant (e.g., a second wave of the pandemic). CCA's scenario #3 defines hybrid/blended as five days per week on-site + distant students for a limited number of classes based on student and family needs. Accordingly, we have assembled school reopening plans that were due July 31 to the NYS Dept. of Health (NYSDOH) and August 7 to the NYS Education Department (NYSED). The most recent draft version of this plan is located on CCA's website.

The NYSED Guidelines for Independent and Religious schools issued July 27 confirms the need for the three scenarios. The “NYSED Non-public Schools Reopening Procedures” and “NYSED Reopening Guidance for Religious and Independent Schools” can be viewed at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/nonpub/reopening.html>

“It is essential that...Religious and independent schools consider multiple models for reopening their campuses and *select the one that makes the most sense* for their unique circumstances of program, students served, location, and facilities.” p. 5

“Flexibility is essential when planning for the fall, and school should be prepared to shift from in-person, remote learning, and a hybrid model that is least disruptive to students.” p. 39.

CCA has an unprecedented opportunity to serve the needs of prospective families in our community due to our commitment to conduct five-day on-site operations (in contrast to a number of local schools) when New York state governing authorities allow.

So please, spread the word about CCA and its incredible teachers!

For immunocompromised health and safety reasons, some families must keep their child at home in Distance Learning mode for most or all of his/her education as school reopens. Hence, our definition of Scenario #3 (hybrid/blended learning) noted above is different from the definition of hybrid/blended recently announced in most WNY public school district reopening plans.

One of the ways we plan to make this work is by standardizing K-12 use of Google Classroom as our online Learning Management System (LMS). Google Classroom will be used by students, parents/guardians, and teachers whether instruction is on-site at CCA or online. Stay tuned for soon - forthcoming tutorials and instructional videos on how to navigate and utilize the Google Classroom platform and its interconnection with CCA’s portal where the online gradebook is maintained.

In order to ensure that we partner with parents and guardians in ways we can indeed deliver, CCA’s commitment to make it work has:

- informed a technology survey that led to equipment orders this week, and
- led to Google certification training of our LMS Coordinator, who in turn is assembling resources for use by teachers, students, and parents/guardians on the use of Google Classroom, and
- mobilized faculty meetings for planning prior to and training during teacher work week.

Regarding faculty and staff members: Mrs. Lynn Husvar has gone to a three day work week, so Mr. Dave Schopf is now Director of Athletics & Facilities. Miss Sonja Haakonsen has assumed the position of Office Manager/Project Coordinator in the main office, and Mrs. Kristen Guerin will return to the Art classroom and Yearbook as well as assisting in Academy Advantage and video production. Mrs. Tammy Baldwin has added School Counselor and College Advisor to her previous responsibilities as Bible Chair and Chapel Coordinator.

Teachers with added responsibilities include the following: Mrs. Joyce Pontrello has assumed Technology Co-Chair and Dean of Character Development (previously known as Discipline); Mrs. De-Let Abdul, Student Activities Coordinator and ESL teacher; Mr. Tom Ashby, will administer RightNow Media accounts and Teacher Aide program and assist with Student Activities; Mrs. Hana Asirwatham, International Student Program Assistant; Mrs. Erica Forget, WAAG and Graphic Design; Mr. Steve Napoli, Technology Co-Chair, Faculty Technology Support, Website, and Social Media; Mrs. Stefanie Way, K-5 Computer and K-12 Learning Management System (LMS) Administrator; and Dr. Layne Vanderbeek, AP/College Dual-Enrollment Chair & Testing Coordinator.

CCA's organizational chart is attached here for your convenience.

Regarding enrollment, third grade is already full and wait-listed. Several other socially-distanced classrooms are already nearly full as well. Many inquiries are coming in as people learn about CCA. Newly tested and approved applicants are eager to start the new school year with us at CCA. Returning CCA families, who have not already done so, please return your student contracts to CCA's business office no later than Wednesday, August 12, to avoid being placed on wait lists for full classes. CCA will begin enrolling new, tested applicants the morning of Thursday, August 13.

I am looking forward to (re)connecting with you and as we continue this sacred partnership together. Please join me in prayer to Almighty God for our school and for the various churches represented therein.

Please especially welcome our new students and families into this leading community of faith and learning in WNY!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

With you on the journey,



Stuart S. Chen, Ph.D., P.E.
School President