

Dear SCS Society,

Thank you for your patience and your continued support of Sunnyside Christian School (SCS) during these COVID times. The SCS board met in special session on August 9, 2021, to discuss the 2021-22 school year. Although every one of us would love to go back to in-person learning where masks were not required, daily screenings were unnecessary, and kids could sit next to each other, unfortunately, because of the risk of being shut down to in-person learning and the financial losses that could occur (Repayment of stimulus funds received, L& I fines, potential loss of insurance etc.) SCS will follow the Washington State Department of Health mandates. We understand and support the strong desire for parental choice in this sensitive matter, but ultimately, the board had to decide that the risk of the loss of in-person learning was too great given the mandates from the State of Washington.

The Washington State Department of Health (“DOH”) has given updated COVID-19 guidance with regards to the 2021-2022 school year that provides several requirements and one recommendation for a school to provide in-person education this fall. Here is a summary of the effects on SCS of those requirements and recommendation:

1. Please do not send your child to SCS if he or she is sick. This includes any of the following symptoms that are not caused by another condition: fever (greater than 100.3 F), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, unusual fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Protocols for quarantining due to COVID 19 have been updated, and these updates will be supplied to families at the beginning of the school year (in case any additional changes are made between now and then).
2. It appears that the daily health screening ticket system **will not** be necessary for the 2021-2022 school year at this time. For safety reasons within the parking lot, the elementary campus will still ask that students who are not using the buses be dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoons at the east gate by the music building. However, there will not be anyone receiving health screening tickets or taking temperatures.
3. The recommendation for physical distancing between students has been reduced to 3 feet in most circumstances. Therefore, SCS will have more normal-sized classes. Additionally, it will not be necessary to use the elementary gym or the elementary music room as classrooms.
4. Choir, band, and P.E. will be offered, provided that all of the teaching staff positions are filled.
5. Students should once again be able to move between classrooms during the school day.
6. The school day will have the normal dismissal times of 3:06 p.m. for the elementary campus and 3:15 for the high school campus.
7. SCS is required to provide information to the Yakima Health District if there is a reported case of COVID-19 in the school. Please be aware that SCS may be required to give your child’s name and other information if they test positive for COVID-19 during the school year.

8. **Cloth face masks are still required** indoors in school settings. Currently, even fully vaccinated persons must wear cloth face masks in school settings. However, masks are not currently required in outdoor settings, including recess.
9. Requirements for extracurricular activities continue to change. The athletic directors at each campus will keep athletes, parents and coaches informed of requirements as further guidance is provided by the WIAA.
10. COVID vaccines are not mandated for the 2021-22 school year.
11. While the DOH recommends random COVID 19 testing for students, this is solely a recommendation and not a mandate, and as such, SCS will not be implementing random COVID 19 testing protocols at this time.
12. As much as we love parent volunteers, we will not be able to have volunteers at the beginning of the school year. We feel that working together as a school and family is part of what makes SCS so special. Therefore, we will regularly evaluate this and hope to welcome volunteers back as soon as possible. Volunteer hours for parents and students for the service time requirement will be waived for the 2021-22 school year. We strongly encourage our students to find ways to serve others, but they will not be required to submit them.

Working together as school and family and church is one of the greatest strengths of SCS. We value our school community and strive to provide excellence in Christian education. We realize that we cannot make everyone happy, but we are trying to do what is best. Please remember, you greatly impact your child's attitude. Be angry or sad in private. Discuss your frustration away from your kids. Set them up for success by teaching them to make the best of it. Be a sounding board for their worries and disappointments. As hard as it may be, stay positive and model perseverance. We will do the same here at school with staff and as a board.

We are looking forward to a great school year in 2021-2022!

SCS Board of Directors

If you have questions or concerns about the requirements please direct them to [del.dykstra@sunnysidechristianschool.org](mailto:del.dykstra@sunnysidechristianschool.org) or [dana.clark@sunnysidechristianschool.org](mailto:dana.clark@sunnysidechristianschool.org)