



THE  
OAKRIDGE  
SCHOOL



# 2020-2021 REOPENING PLAN

VERSION 07.29.2020 | DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year, a year unlike any other in The Oakridge School's 41-year history. We hope you have had the opportunity to view the new "Summer Sessions: First and Fifteen" videos, which have articulated our team's primary focus this summer: the safe and strategic return to campus. This video series, designed to provide Oakridge families with up-to-date school information, will continue through at least the end of September.

Over the summer, six task forces composed of regents, administrators, faculty, and staff collaborated to reimagine The Oakridge School through six lenses: *Health and Wellness, Learning and Teaching, Facilities and Operations, Calendar and Special Events, Communication and Technology, and Networking and Resources*. This comprehensive reopening document articulates the planning accomplished over the last two months. We continue to plan for all imaginable scenarios in earnest.

At the heart of the school's planning is what our team of professional educators believes is best for children, coupled with information the Oakridge parent body reported in the reopening survey (July 8-12). The American Academy of Pediatrics shared a similar view, [publishing](#) that it "...strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." Then, in its July 23 position on the importance of reopening America's schools, the [CDC stated](#), "Aside from a child's home, no other setting has more influence on a child's health and well-being than their school."

Local health authorities from Tarrant County issued a Joint Control Order on July 21 stating all public school systems and non-religious private schools, "shall not reopen for on-campus, face-to-face instruction or activities until September 28, 2020." Prior to that announcement, The Oakridge School had planned for a successful return to on-campus, in-person schooling beginning August 19 with an at-home learning option for students unable to return.

Then on July 28, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued an opinion that nothing in Executive Order GA-28 prohibits any school from opening, giving

both public and private schools the option to decide how to approach the 2020-2021 school year. As of this writing, The Oakridge School has determined it will open for on-campus learning, with an at-home learning option included.

**The first day of instruction for the 2020-2021 school year has been changed from Wednesday, August 19, to Wednesday, August 26** to allow for additional planning and training, as well as parent and student orientations.

“KEEPING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH THIS COVID-19 CRISIS IS A PRIORITY TO THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL.”

## On-Campus Learning

When Oakridge students return to campus, the day-to-day experience will look and feel a little different from the norm. For instance, in preschool through middle school, students will learn in smaller groups, referred to as cohorts or pods, to reduce the spread of illness. The school's task forces have worked diligently to design a thoughtful and thorough system that mitigates risk to the best of the school's ability, relying on a robust network of private and independent schools, regional and national associations, Tarrant County Public Health, the CDC, and other medical professionals. Additionally, we are keenly aware of the fact that county, state, and federal conditions and/or mandates may force the school to alter its course in a moment's notice. As such, The Oakridge School's reopening plan is subject to change, and the faculty and staff understand the importance of patience and grace during this period of great uncertainty.

## At-Home Learning

Balancing our school culture with science and research, we will proceed with a multi-faceted plan for a return to campus with confidence and optimism. Our team respects, of course, that some fellow Owls

face extenuating circumstances. Thus, we will also be prepared to serve those in our community who require at-home learning. While this model will not replicate the on-campus experience, we will seek opportunities to include our at-home students in everyday campus life. Once we have the number of families choosing the at-home option, we will have a better understanding on how best to utilize our resources to serve all Owls.

Distance Learning

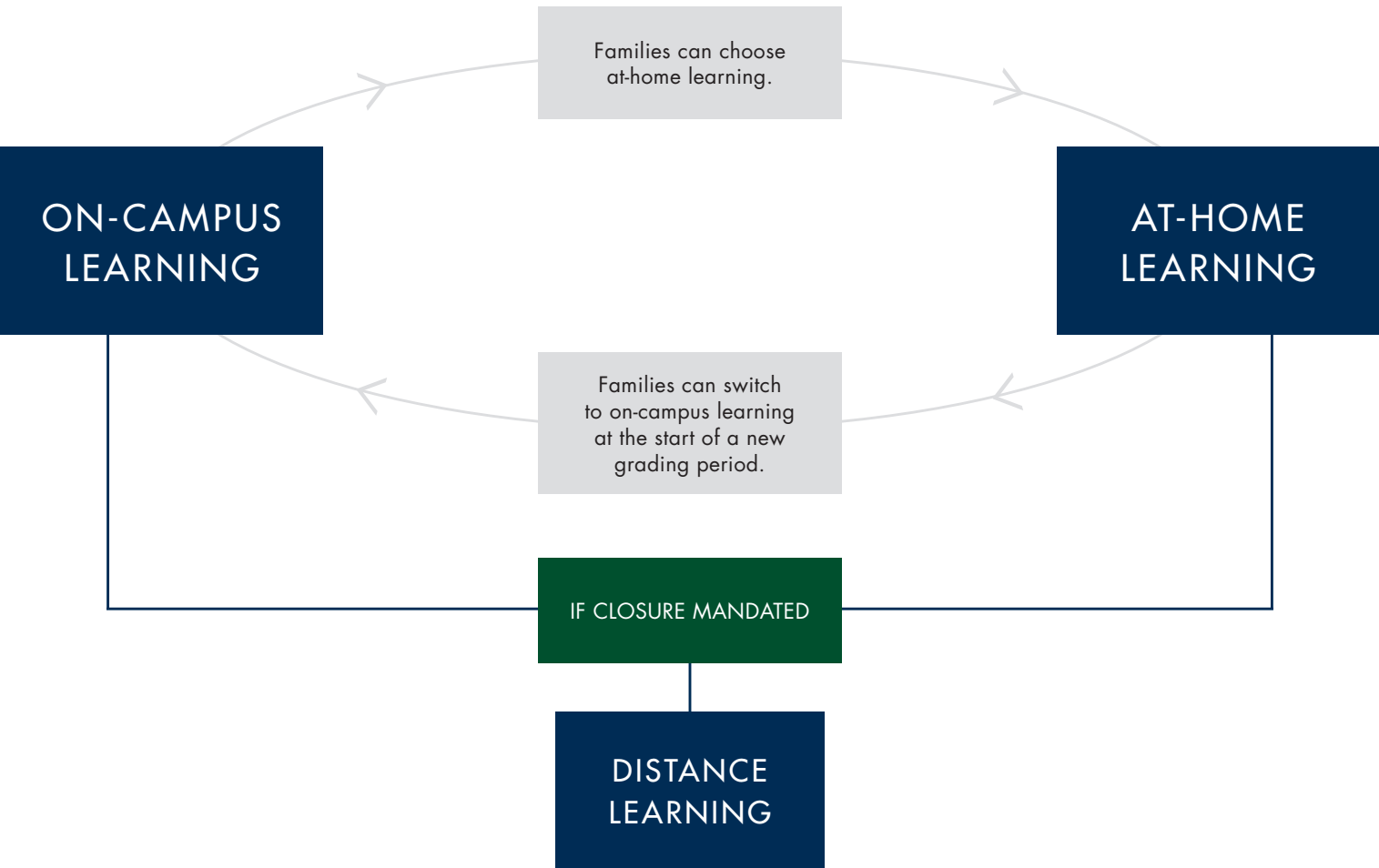
The faculty transitioned quickly to distance learning in March 2020. Since May, this group of experienced educators has had some time to reflect, debrief, and learn. School leaders have also examined the distance learning survey results and will work closely with faculty to finalize the design of the school day in each division, balancing academic rigor and age-appropriate screen time, if a shift to distance learning has to take place in 2020-2021. Planning will also

include time for the social, emotional, and physical well-being of all students.

In the first weeks of school, Oakridge teachers will introduce various platforms and tools. Short videos will be created and shared on an as-needed basis to demonstrate resources to parents. The school will provide necessary resources via the [My Oakridge Parent Portal](#) and also include materials and handouts. More information is provided in the Learning and Teaching section of this document.

Although asking The Oakridge School’s faculty and staff to deliver an education online, in person, or both is a Herculean effort, our team is committed to tackling this temporary challenge with you. Keeping our school community together through this COVID-19 crisis is a priority to The Oakridge School.

Jon Kellam  
Head of School



If a student is out due to COVID-19, he or she will switch to at-home learning, and may return to on-campus learning once protocols are met (see page 7 for more info).

# CAMPUS COMMUNICATION



## Back to School

*The revised start date for the 2020-2021 school year is Wednesday, August 26.*

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend online information sessions the week of August 17, which will cover information on the remote learning models as well as the new health and safety protocols and waiver forms for on-campus, in-person learning. All information sessions will be held via Zoom and will be led by the division heads and head of school. Invitations will be emailed by Friday, August 14. Parents are asked to choose one time from their respective division(s).

Early Childhood Center	Monday, August 17	11:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
Lower School	Tuesday, August 18	11:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
Middle School	Wednesday, August 19	11:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
Upper School	Thursday, August 20	11:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

Students will also attend back-to-school sessions. Some sessions will be virtual, while others will be on campus (physically distanced). This will allow students an opportunity to meet with their teachers and learn more about the upcoming school year. These sessions are tentatively scheduled for August 24 and 25 with specific grade level times to be determined.



## Leadership Communication

The Head of School will continue to release his “First and Fifteen” videos through September. These are emailed to all parents, faculty, and staff. After September, new videos will be shared on an as-needed basis. The division heads will communicate with families on a weekly basis beginning the week of August 17 and throughout the first marking period.



## Text Messaging System (Remind)

The email messaging system is one of the primary ways The Oakridge School communicates with school families. In addition, the school would like to ensure all parents are subscribers of “Remind,” a campus-wide text messaging system. When delivering important information, or in the event of an emergency, the school will also send a text alert. The use of “Remind” will be covered during back-to-school parent meetings.



## JOIN THE REMIND APP

### What is Remind?

Remind is a text messaging app that helps teachers, students, and parents communicate quickly and efficiently. One-way messages are sent in real time to an entire group.

### 3 ways to join the Remind group(s):

#### Join by Text:

Send a text to 81010. In the message box, type in the appropriate class code. (See class codes at right.) New Remind users will receive a text back asking for more information.

#### Join by App:

Download the Remind App. To join a class, tap the + by *Classes Joined* and search for the appropriate class.

#### Join Online:

Join online by visiting [remind.com/join](http://remind.com/join) and enter the class name and an email address.

Join from your email inbox: Send a blank email to [\(typeintheasscodehere\)@gmail.remind.com](mailto:(typeintheasscodehere)@gmail.remind.com) and receive a response with more instructions. (For example, [hoot32@gmail.remind.com](mailto:hoot32@gmail.remind.com))

Families needing further assistance may contact Ashley Read via email at [aread@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:aread@theoakridgeschool.org).

## REMIND CLASS CODES FOR PARENTS BY GRADE LEVEL:

Preschool: @hootp35

Pre-Kindergarten: @hootp34

Kindergarten: @hootp33

1st Grade: @hootp32

2nd Grade: @hootp31

3rd Grade: @hootp30

4th Grade: @hootp29

5th Grade: @hootp28

6th Grade: @hootp27

7th Grade: @hootp26

8th Grade: @hootp25

9th Grade: @hootp24

10th Grade: @hootp23

11th Grade: @hootp22

12th Grade: @hootp21

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS



## Temperature Checks

Assessing the health of a student should begin at home. The school asks that parents check the temperatures and overall health and wellness of their children daily before sending them to school. A student should remain home (or will be sent home) with a temperature of 100.4. For the foreseeable future, the school will also check temperatures of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors upon arrival.



## Cleaning

All facilities will be sanitized on a continuous basis throughout the school day and also cleaned thoroughly after school hours. The school has purchased additional cleaning supplies and equipment to assist in the sanitization process. Sanitizing stations are available across campus, and hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies will be available in every classroom and office.



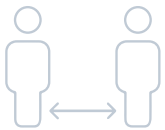
## Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged hourly or at the beginning and end of each class period, and disinfection of items will take place after use (e.g. desk surfaces, chairs, shared devices, etc.). Each division will discuss age-appropriate hygiene practices with students, and related-signage will be posted around the campus.



## Face Coverings

All faculty and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings. We do not believe at this time that Early Childhood Center students (preschool, pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten) will be required to wear masks/face coverings all day. Students will need them for morning arrival, afternoon carpool, and when in close proximity to teachers or other adults. Students in grades 1-12 will be required to wear masks/face coverings while entering and exiting the campus and also inside the buildings when a six-foot distance may not be maintained. The Oakridge School will continue to follow health guidelines and mandates as they are issued.



## Physical Distancing

Where possible, the recommended six feet of physical distancing will be implemented. Student transitions will be supervised by division. Oakridge is evaluating staggered arrival and dismissal times, designated entrance and exit doors, and increased signage.



## School Nurse

The school clinic will be open, and the school nurse will continue to see students and staff. The nurse will administer daily medication to students in grades 1-12. The Early Childhood Center will have a dedicated nurse's station as well. Additionally, there will be isolation areas at the Early Childhood Center and on the main campus.

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS



## Returning to Campus

Staff or students who had symptoms of COVID-19 with or without lab confirmation may return to campus after:

- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication  
AND
- Improvement in all symptoms, not specifically respiratory symptoms  
AND
- 10 days have elapsed since symptoms first appeared



Staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms may return to campus after:

- 10 days have passed since the positive test result AND
- You continue to have no symptoms



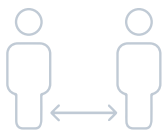
Staff or students who have had close contact (closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with a person with lab-confirmed COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 (in the 48 hours before symptoms appeared until cleared by guidelines list above) may return to campus after:

- 14 days have passed since last exposure
- You continue to have no symptoms



Staff or students who had an illness other than COVID-19 (including, but not limited to strep throat, pink eye, a sinus infection, etc.) may return to campus after:

- 3 days with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication  
AND
- Resolution of symptoms of other illness  
OR
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication  
AND
- A note from a physician stating the individual may return to school



*\*Up-to-date information on the school's protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found on the school's [website](#). In the weeks leading up to safely re-opening school, the school will post informational/instructional videos, updates, and other needed communication after it has been shared with the campus community via the email messaging system.*



# LEARNING AND TEACHING



In keeping with its mission, The Oakridge School is committed to providing a nurturing, challenging, and dynamic educational environment for students in preschool through grade 12. Beyond academics, the dedication to student growth in the arts and athletics continues. However, the school must remain flexible during unusual circumstances, as our community's health and wellness remain our top priority.

All divisions offer a blend of traditional and progressive learning experiences as students and teachers adapt to the current circumstances. Oakridge has prepared for a variety of scenarios and knows that its engaging faculty will provide a dynamic experience, on or off campus.

With this in mind, Oakridge recognizes that throughout the school year, in addition to on-campus instruction, circumstances may arise making it necessary for some students to shift to at-home learning for their instruction and assignments. Furthermore, if state and local governments decide schools must close their campuses for a period of time, the school is poised to provide a supportive and robust distance learning program until a transition back to campus is possible.







# DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

WHETHER LEARNING IS ON OR OFF CAMPUS, EACH DIVISION  
IS MAKING AGE-APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATIONS

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

## ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

- Students will be in learning pods of 10-13 students in a classroom.
- Flexible seating options for each child with tables spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Designated entrances and exits to allow for physical distancing.
- Individual kits for hands-on activities.
- Lunch for students in the classroom or outside as weather permits.
- Enrichment teachers travel to classrooms.
- Physical education (Music and Movement) scheduled by classroom to maintain pods.
- Teachers take learning outdoors on occasion.
- Preschool and pre-kindergarten students will utilize the Big Room (a large, indoor space) as well as outdoor spaces as weather permits. Kindergarten students will utilize the Quinn Big Room (a large, indoor space) and outdoor spaces.
- The librarian will bring the library experience to the Early Childhood Center.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

### Preschool

- Recognizing that 3- to 4-year-old children rely heavily on carefully created environments that include play, social emotional development, fine motor skills and academic skills, priority will be on play-based, child-centered learning that pushes beyond engagement with a screen.
- Teachers are dedicated to creating an engaging, creative and effective platform for students and families.
- Students will have daily interaction with teachers.
- Efforts to nurture relationships beyond the academic classroom will continue.
- Teachers may provide opportunities for outdoor experiences.
- Tool kits will be provided for families to learn together at home.

### Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten

- Teachers are dedicated to creating an engaging, creative and effective platform for students and families.
- Classes will blend synchronous and asynchronous instruction to maximize learning for all students.
- Students and faculty will utilize Seesaw and Zoom as the primary digital tools.
- Students will have daily interaction with teachers.
- Efforts to nurture relationships beyond the academic classroom will continue.
- Teachers may provide opportunities for outdoor experiences.
- Tool kits will be provided to support learning at home.



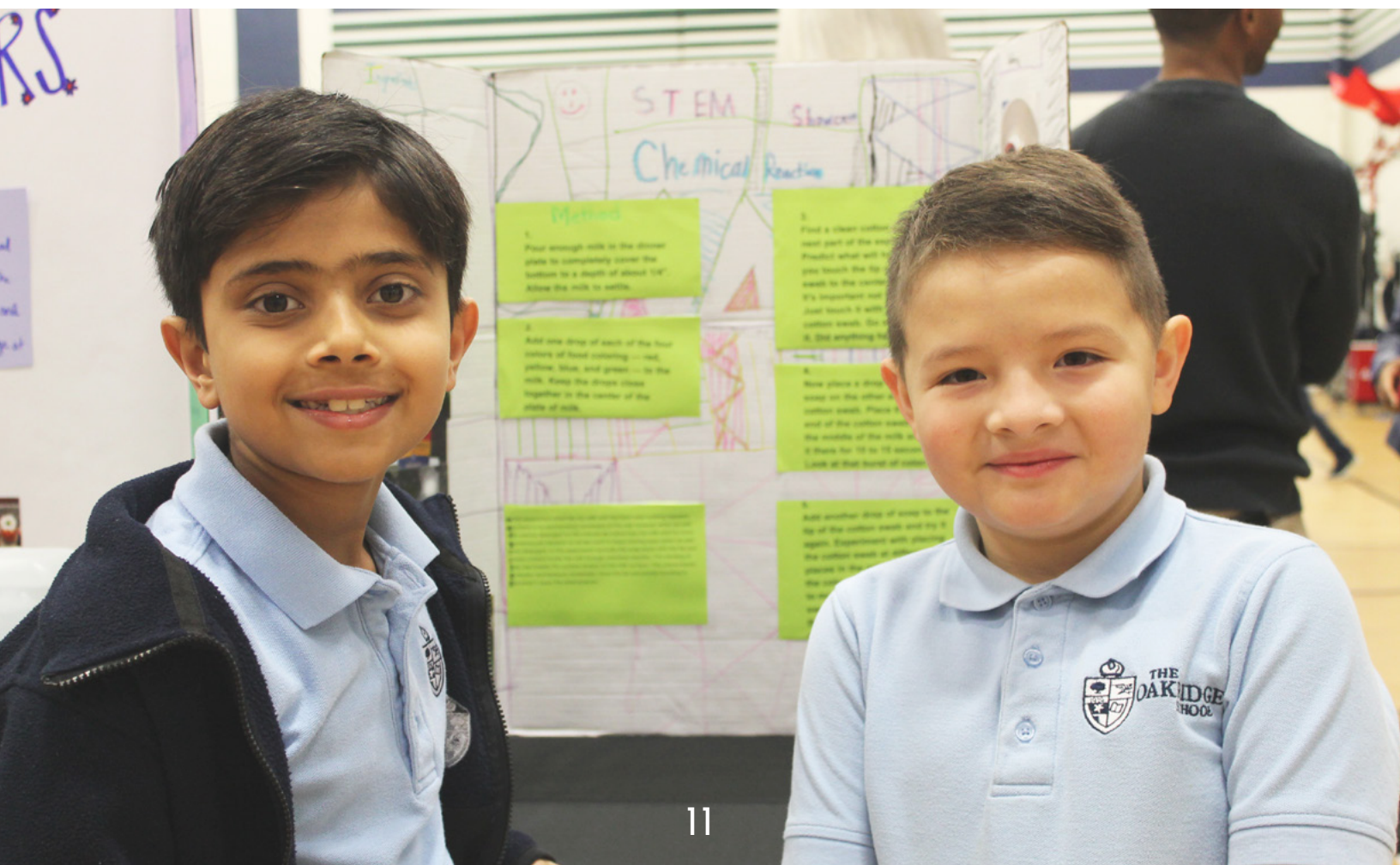
# LOWER SCHOOL

## ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

- Students will be in learning pods of 10-14 in a classroom, with students spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Students will remain with their homeroom class (learning pod) throughout the day.
- Students will enjoy classes in the art room, music room, and library. Physical distance protocols will be followed.
- By individual pods, PE and recess will be held in the gym and outside areas.
- Lunch will take place on rotation in the Student Activity Center, the homeroom classroom, or when the weather permits, outside.
- Additional enrichment teachers will travel to each class to deliver instruction.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

- Learning pods will remain intact, which will allow for structure in a fluid environment.
- Students should expect to meet with their teacher daily.
- Classes will blend synchronous and asynchronous instruction to maximize learning for all students.
- Students and faculty will utilize Seesaw and Zoom as the primary digital tools.
- Efforts to nurture relationships beyond the academic classroom will continue.
- Teachers may provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and outdoor experiences.
- Through workshops, webinars, discussions, and reflection on the experiences from spring 2020, the faculty and staff are committed to continuing the excellence provided on campus.





# MIDDLE SCHOOL

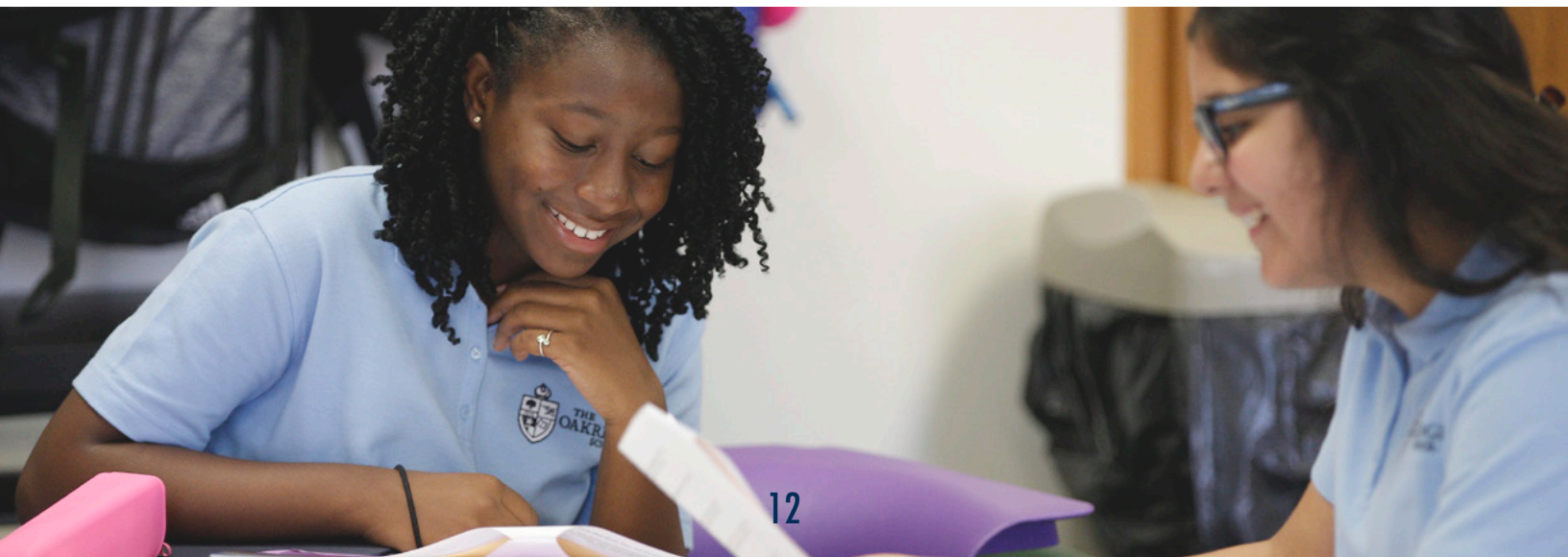
## ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

- All Middle School students will be in learning pods throughout the majority of their academic day.
- Pod sizes will be between 9-12 students, with students spaced at least 6 feet apart.
- Classes will follow a block schedule format (A/B days).
- Lockers will not be utilized this year; however, a classroom hook for backpacks will be provided in a student's pod.
- With the exception of fine arts, PE, and athletics, teachers - not students - will rotate among the pods.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 will participate in PE daily. Students will remain in their pod and will not change into a PE uniform.
- Students in grades 7 and 8 will participate in athletics daily. Students will be able to participate with their sport-specific team.
- Fine arts classes will be offered to all students. Students in grades 5 and 6 will be able to sample all of the fine arts within a thoughtful rotation. Students in grades 7 and 8 will participate in their chosen fine arts class.
- Lunch will take place on rotation in the Student Activity Center, the pod classroom, or when the weather permits, outside.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

In the event that the school must transition to a remote learning format, the Middle School is poised to provide a robust learning environment.

- Pods will remain intact, which will allow for structure in a fluid environment.
- Students should expect to meet daily following the same block schedule format as on campus.
- Classes will blend synchronous and asynchronous instruction to maximize learning for all students.
- Students and faculty will utilize Google Classroom and Zoom as the primary digital tools.
- Efforts to nurture relationships beyond the academic classroom will continue.
- Teachers may provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and outdoor experiences.
- On-campus activities will be offered periodically in accordance with state and county mandates during distance learning. This includes, but is not limited, to athletics.
- Through workshops, webinars, discussions, and reflection on the experiences from spring 2020, the faculty are committed to continuing the excellence provided on campus.



# UPPER SCHOOL

## ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

On-Campus Learning in the Upper School for 2020-2021 will have a few noticeable differences. Upper School student schedules vary greatly depending on subject, level of course, and fine arts and language choices. To increase physical distancing for its students, the Upper School:

- Reimagined Upper School and campus spaces.
- Requires masks when students are not spaced at least 6 feet apart in classrooms.
- Increased the number of class sections to decrease the number of students in each classroom.
- Classes will follow a block schedule format (A/B days).
- Instituted one-way traffic patterns in hallways and buildings to minimize congestion.
- Assigned indoor and outdoor options for supervised/observed areas during study halls and other free period time for students.
- Restructured the schedule for longer passing periods and less hallway congestion.
- Students will continue to benefit from close relationships with advisors and teachers, meeting with college counseling, belonging to clubs, participating in arts and athletics, and connecting with peers.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

Should all Upper School Owls shift to distance learning this school year, students are encouraged to remain positive, flexible, and committed to learning. Distance Learning will include:

- A combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Teachers will offer a robust curriculum balanced with support structures for student success.
- Students should expect to meet daily following the same block schedule format as on campus.
- Students will meet with their advisories weekly during distance learning for social-emotional wellness checks and community building.
- Efforts to nurture relationships beyond the academic classroom will continue.
- Teachers may provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and outdoor experiences.
- On-campus activities will be offered periodically in accordance with state and county mandates during distance learning. This includes, but is not limited, to athletics.
- Through workshops, webinars, discussions, and reflection on the experiences from spring 2020, the faculty are committed to continuing the excellence provided on campus.



# ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

## Athletics

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Athletic Department will continue to follow health guidelines and mandates as they are issued. Specific times and locations will be communicated as the practice date nears.

#### Middle School Fall Athletics (Grades 7-8)

- August 26 - Selection of sport and team meetings
- September 8 - Scrimmages and competitions can begin

*Practice will occur on school days, during the available athletic periods.*

Any family that chooses to receive at-home instruction and also has a student who wishes to compete on a team this fall will be included. Those students may join August 26, or whenever they feel safe to do so. These students will need to communicate directly with Athletic Director Shawn Meadows via email at [smeadows@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:smeadows@theoakridgeschool.org).

### UPPER SCHOOL

The Athletic Department will continue to follow health guidelines and mandates as they are issued. The Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC) is planning to adjust fall schedules to allow teams to complete conference play. More information will be emailed to families.

#### Upper School Fall Athletics

- Currently - Strength and conditioning (Monday through Thursday, 8-10 a.m.)
- August 10 - Full practices can begin
- September 8 - Scrimmages and competitions can begin (non-conference)
- September 21 - Competitions can begin (conference)

*Practice times for each sport and other pertinent information will be shared at a later date.*

Any family that chooses to receive at-home instruction and also has a student who wishes to compete on a team this fall will be included. Those students may join practices August 10, or whenever they feel safe to do so. These students will need to communicate directly with Athletic Director Shawn Meadows via email [smeadows@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:smeadows@theoakridgeschool.org).

## Student Activities

### CLASS TRIPS / FIELD TRIPS

Class trips and field trips are an important part of the Oakridge experience. Though they are not yet scheduled for 2020-2021, they will be added when circumstances and conditions allow.

### ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING

After-school care will be offered in preschool through grade eight. Enrichment programs (e.g. musical theatre, art, STEM) will be introduced later in the school year, as possible.



### Lunch

Early Childhood Center students will eat lunch in their classrooms or outside. Students in grades 1-12 will eat lunch in the Student Activity Center, their classrooms, or outside. A rotating system will be devised to limit the number of students in the Student Activity Center at any given time, and extra cleaning and sanitization measures will be in place.

Students may either bring their lunch or purchase a pre-packaged meal from [Food4Life](#). More information regarding the purchasing of school lunches will be forthcoming.

### Transportation

Oakridge will continue to offer its Cedar Hill, Mansfield, and Colleyville bus routes. The driver will be masked and will check students' temperatures as they board the bus. All students riding the bus must wear a mask/face covering and windows will be cracked to let in fresh air, when possible. Seating will be staggered to allow for distancing and hand sanitizer will be used by students upon entering and exiting the bus. Buses will be sanitized after each use. A separate document regarding bus transportation will be provided to those who utilize the school's bus services before school begins.

### Community and Calendar Events

#### **FINE ARTS PERFORMANCE HALL**

Upon return to on campus, in-person school, large crowds will not be allowed in the performance hall for any events. The spacious Fine Arts Performance Hall, however, will offer an excellent space for classroom use, particularly in the fine arts.

#### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC**

The school picnic has been canceled.

#### **HOMECOMING**

The Oakridge School loves welcoming back alumni and celebrating Homecoming each fall. From the parade to the fireworks, and everything in between, this is a signature event in the life of the school. It will be reimaged. A face-to-face event with a large crowd will not be possible in the early months of the school year.

#### **GRANDPARENTS' DAY**

A signature and memorable event, Grandparents' Day will not look the same this fall. A committee will be working on a virtual format that celebrates grandparents and grandfriends and shares the Oakridge experience.

### Visitors

Visitors will be limited at the start of school and until further notice. Vendors will be asked to perform their on campus work before or after school or on the weekends. Though there may be extenuating circumstances, only adults employed by the school will be on campus during school hours at the beginning of the school year. If a parent must visit campus for a meeting, this will be by appointment only, and all safety protocols will be followed.