



Good Morning Parents,

I hope everyone is having a great week. I wanted to provide an update on a few items.

We have decided to move the school start date to Wednesday, August 12 as we are expecting additional guidance from the Governor's Office. In the past, the Governor's guidance was primarily directed to public schools, but starting in the Spring, the Governor's office diverged from its usual routine and made its guidance applicable to both public and private schools.

Based on the Governor's July 2020 Executive Order, face coverings are required for students over 10 years old for most counties, including Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, and Polk. Some counties were excluded based on COVID statistics, but Harris county is not one of those counties. Thus, Covenant will require face coverings for students over 10 years old (fifth grade and up) when school starts. Please note the following:

- If your child has a medical condition, claustrophobia, or a disability that prevents him/her from wearing a face covering, please contact Nurse Prudhomme ([sprudhomme@covenantknights.org](mailto:sprudhomme@covenantknights.org)).
- There are certain situations where it may be impractical for students to wear a face covering, such as participating in some athletic or co-curricular activities. In those instances, we will socially distance students (TEA).

I realize not everyone will agree with the Governor's decision, but Covenant has a responsibility to obey its governmental authorities. We also understand that studies show that students are less susceptible to COVID; however, the face coverings protect not only our students but our faculty and staff, several of whom have high risk situations at home. Gloves and sneeze guards will be optional so students are welcome to bring them to school. This is a temporary disruption and we ask you to bear with our Covenant family during this difficult time.

In making decisions on personal protection equipment and other COVID-related items, we view a plethora of materials from various sources, such as the Governor's Office, CDC, TEA, medical communities, etc. (I have attached one example of the many sources we review). Please know that these are not simple decisions: we covet your prayers for God's wisdom and discernment to make the right decisions as we seek to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff while providing a rigorous education.

We will be posting our Reopen Plan on our website early next week and will refine it as we receive additional information from the Governor's Office, TEA, CDC, and other applicable

governmental authorities. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding given the fluidity of our situation. Please know that regardless of our circumstances, Covenant remains committed to a Christian, classical, and college-preparatory education, wherein it develops its students holistically – mind, body, and soul.

Warm Regards,

*Lorraine Hill*