



CHALLENGER[®]

S C H O O L

July 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

I'm pleased to be able to welcome back students to our campuses for school starting Monday, August 17. We will also offer an online learning option.

At Challenger School, we've always recommended on-campus learning as the best educational choice for children, as we've witnessed the amazing results firsthand. Thus, we wholeheartedly agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics: "... all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school." That's exactly what we intend to do!

We hope that you take advantage of the benefits of returning children to school where they learn best.

You may be one of the thousands of parents who have come to recognize the critical value for your child to be at school this summer. If so, you may relate to one of our parents who recently mentioned, "These girls are so happy to be back to school, even for shorter days! The girls have an entirely different mood this week than the past 3 months."

We've heard that same sentiment from many of you. That's because education is so much more than reading, writing, and mathematics. Children learn from the social interaction made possible by going to school and interrelating with a variety of individuals with different cultures, perspectives, and experiences. We're thrilled to be able to again provide the overwhelming benefits that on-campus learning provides to children.

As we open for school, we do so carefully and safely. We've incorporated the CDC and local health department requirements in order to keep our campuses clean and our students and staff safe.

However, some of these new restrictions dictate the following changes to our on-campus learning:

- Reduced class sizes as required by local authorities to allow for proper social distancing
- Staggered arrival and departure times to minimize student and teacher contact
- Shifted lunches to classrooms to reduce unnecessary interaction
- Adjusted class/activity offerings to reduce risk of exposure via cross-group interactions
 - no specialty teachers for PE, music, or art
 - computer classes are temporarily suspended
 - outside recess and PE may be restructured
- Decreased program offerings and shortened hours to maintain smaller groups
 - all-day preschool hours will be reduced to 8–5
 - extended classtime will not be offered at this time
 - T/TH preschool programs are not available at this time

Even though we open with some limitations, they will not affect our ability to provide a quality Challenger education.

For those students who cannot attend for a period of time or choose not to participate in on-campus learning, our online learning program will be available and run parallel to our on-campus program for preschool–eighth grade students.

Our online program offers:

- Recorded classes and student resources in essential PS–G8 subjects ([grade-specific plan/schedule](#))
- Daily, live, one-hour class sessions with classmates and teachers (30-minute sessions for preschool)
- Teacher feedback on student assessments

Participation in the online learning program will require a printer to print daily packets and a device (computer, tablet, or phone) for children to submit assessments to their teacher via Microsoft Teams and to *view* recorded classes and live classes.

For students to *interact* with the teacher and classmates during live classes, they must have access to a Windows or Apple laptop or desktop that meets the following specifications (mobile phones, iPads, Android tablets, and Chromebooks will not work):

- Windows 10 or 8.1 or Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan or later
- Microsoft Teams desktop software (web browsers will not work for live classes)
- Internet connection performance with an upload speed of:
 - 1 Mbit/s to share audio
 - 2 Mbit/s to share video
- Download speed of at least 5 Mbit/s
- Microphone and camera

For a successful online learning experience, parents are responsible to ensure their children view all recorded classes, submit all assessments in a timely manner, have a proper learning environment, meet the comportment code and uniform expectations during all live sessions, and possess required supplies. Challenger will provide textbooks via touchless pickup prior to the beginning of school.

The tuition for online learning is a reduced rate, as it does not represent the full Challenger product. Previously published tuition rates apply for on-campus learning; we will not charge an additional COVID fee.

Next week, we will send you a means to communicate your intentions of participating in on-campus or online education so that we can, therefore, determine availability and your child's placement in either on-campus or online learning.

In the meantime, please ensure that you have set up a [parent portal account](#) so that we can use that reliable means to communicate with you.

The adjustments that we've presented are based on the COVID-19 situation as of today. As conditions change, we will respond and inform you of any changes.

Let's work through the effects of COVID-19 together to ensure your children do not fall behind. Until we can return to normal conditions, we will forge through the limitations and focus on providing your children with the opportunity to gain unprecedented ground as they access stellar academics, practice essential life skills, build lifelong relationships, and develop into self-reliant, productive individuals.

Best regards,

Hugh Gourgeon
CEO