



## Charter School of Inquiry

**Important Updates March 30, 2021**

### **Transition to Hybrid Instruction**

CSI has been working with families to identify those students who will be returning to the building in a hybrid modality (a combination of remote and in-person learning). The cyber attack on the Buffalo Public Schools has created some obstacles for CSI, particularly regarding the scheduling of transportation. Despite these obstacles, CSI is planning on launching hybrid instruction on the following dates:

Grade 2	Monday, April 19
Grade 3	Monday, April 26
Grade 4	Monday, May 3
Grade 5 and 6	Monday, May 10

Remote instruction will continue to be provided for students whose parents elect not to send them back into the building.

For parents who will be sending their children back into the building for hybrid instruction, remember that the school day begins at 8:00 a.m. Students who are being dropped off should arrive between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Parents who are picking their children up at the end of the day should arrive between 3:00 and 3:15 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served in classrooms.

Laptops and cords must be brought back to school on the first day. They will be used in the classroom throughout the day.

We are maintaining the highest health and safety protocols. The building is sanitized daily, there are hand sanitizing stations throughout the building, and markers on the floor designating appropriate distancing. Classrooms are set up in such a way as to ensure proper personal distancing at all times.

There is a nurse in the building all day, and she will be teaching children about good hygiene practices.

All people entering the building, including students, are screened for signs of illness; however, it is your responsibility to screen your child for illness before leaving for school. Children will not be permitted in school if they have a fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, or sudden loss of taste or smell. Children will be screened by the school nurse upon entering the building and will be asked to be picked up if there are any signs of illness.

As per NYS Law, children who are not up to date on the required school-age vaccinations cannot participate in in-person instruction. If you have questions about this, you can call our school nurse.

Upon returning to the building, children will be required to wear school uniform attire.

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As a reminder, a child must wear a mask from the time he or she gets on the bus and throughout the school day. There will be “mask breaks” at key times during the day.

Unfortunately, due to our strict health and safety protocols and the need for possible contact tracing, visitors are not allowed in the building. Parents will be required to leave their children at the door and a staff member will escort children to their classrooms.

I want to ensure you that CSI will do everything necessary to keep children safe who are attending in-person instruction and will continue to provide the best possible education for children who will remain in remote instruction.

Our complete reopening plan can be found on our school website, and there is a link to the plan on our Facebook page.

### **Rtl (Response to Intervention) Groups**

The pandemic has taken its toll on students throughout the world in many ways. It is no secret that since last March, students have not been able to progress academically at the same rate that they would have if they had been in the school building. At CSI, some students have been assigned to Rtl learning groups to receive more focused instruction in a small group setting with reading and math specialists. If your child is assigned to one of these groups, it is imperative that he or she participate as assigned.

### **Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy**

Some students at CSI receive therapy services within the school day. Students receive these services to help them overcome challenges that could affect their academic and social success. These services have been consistently offered in remote instruction and will continue to be offered. If your child is assigned these services, it is in his or her best interest to attend sessions regularly.

These have been trying times for parents, children, and teachers alike. We must remember that we are all working together and doing our best to keep our children and our families safe during a pandemic. I have said numerous times that I am grateful that my son is grown and that I have not had to face these challenges as a parent myself. It is my sincerest hope that these trials have strengthened the CSI community because we have all had to rely heavily on the partnership between parents and teachers to provide for our children as best as possible.

Thank you for your patience and support. Please do not hesitate to call the school if you have additional questions.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Sheffield,  
Head of School