



TIMOTHY

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

W E L L S B U R G , I O W A



The mission of Timothy Christian School is to assist Christian parents in training God's children through Christ-centered education for service in God's world.

Return to Learn Plan

Introduction

July 15, 2020

On Sunday, March 15th, Governor Reynolds recommended schools close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Timothy Christian School closed starting Monday, March 16th, and we remained closed for the rest of the year. Teachers got to work, and students were given at-home learning guides and packets. School work was completed at home. Parents picked up and dropped off student work every two weeks, and teachers reached out to students and parents over email, Zoom, phone calls, texts, Facebook, Marco Polo, and Google Apps. Student learning opportunities were given, but so much was out of our control. Families, students, and teachers were all affected by this pandemic in different ways. We simply asked that parents and students do what they could, and it went well for some and not so well for others. This was a time where we all needed grace, compassion, and understanding. I am so thankful for the hard work of our teachers, staff, school board, parents, and students during this time. More importantly, I am thankful to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for the hope He freely gives us and for His continued faithfulness.

With the end of one school year, we now look forward to the fall. The Lord has given us the opportunity to reflect on what we learned from the closure and plan for what is ahead. I hope this Return to Learn Plan will be a valuable and encouraging resource as we look forward, with deep hope for a great 2020-2021 school year.



Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:23

Rebecca Johnson, Administrator

Our Hope

Remarkable times require creative thinking, flexible planning, and a steadfast commitment to the mission of Timothy Christian School. Our hope, even in the uncertainty of what is ahead, is that we will strengthen our unity and testimony as the people of God called to this particular place, that we will equip each child according to their distinct God-given giftedness and purpose, and that we will protect the most vulnerable among us.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Our Hope.....	2
Health & Wellness.....	3-7
Teaching & Learning.....	7-9
Technology.....	10
School Operations & Facilities.....	10-11
Hope Anchored.....	12
Upcoming Events.....	12

WE BELIEVE

We firmly believe that it is good and beneficial for all children to return to their regular education plan and schedule, understanding that the known data supports that children are, by and large, at significantly lower risk from the most severe COVID-19 symptoms. While there are exceptions, severe cases have been relatively uncommon, and most children who contract this disease appear to be asymptomatic or experience mild symptoms. As medical research on effective preventative measures and treatments for the virus continue to develop, we understand that it will not be possible to create a completely risk-free atmosphere at school, and it is neither possible nor desirable to keep children and teachers socially distant at all times. With those thoughts in mind, Timothy Christian School will hold classes as normally scheduled with the following measures and procedures in the areas of health and wellness, teaching and learning, technology, and school operations and facilities with the goal that school can stay open while students and staff feel and stay safe.



Health & Wellness

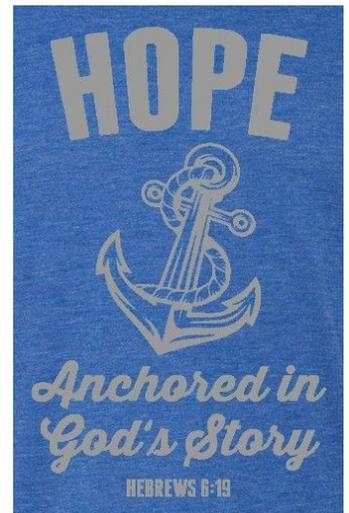
The spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social-emotional wellbeing of our students, families, and staff is of the utmost importance. The Return to Learn Plan includes several areas of emphasis as we consider how best to promote the health and wellness of our whole community.

- ① **Implementing a school-wide theme, chapels, daily devotions, and weekly memory work** to center around the hope we have in Christ.
- ② **Partnering with qualified health and wellness agencies** to provide expanded services made necessary by the pandemic.
- ③ **Developing and teaching community-wide practices** to promote good hygiene that minimizes the spread of the infection.
- ④ **Providing social-emotional support** through counseling opportunities and relationship building.

① SCHOOL-WIDE THEME: Hope Anchored in God's Story

Hope Anchored in God's Story is our school-wide theme this year. This journey will help students and staff believe and apply the hope we have in Christ through teacher and student devotions, common memory work, and weekly chapels. This theme gives us an in-depth walk through what the Bible teaches about hope in God's story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. The hope we have in Christ is our anchor in uncertain times, and that hope is there through all circumstances. Parents and community members are invited to join us each Friday for chapel at 8:30 AM to learn more about God's hope and to worship Him together as a school community.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19



② HEALTH AND WELLNESS AGENCIES: Grundy County Public Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Grundy County Public Health

Timothy Christian School is consulting with Grundy County Public Health on how to best approach situations that may arise due to the pandemic. This includes providing health education to our students and following proper guidance if and when a confirmed COVID-19 infection or exposure occurs.

Staff and parents can contact Grundy County Public Health with questions or concerns at 319-824-6312. More information can be found at <https://www.grundycountyiowa.gov/departments/public-health-home-care>

③COMMUNITY-WIDE PRACTICES: Illness Policy

Timothy Christian School will implement an illness policy that provides a healthy and safe environment for our students. Some illnesses and situations require a child to be absent from school to prevent the spread of infection to other children and to allow the child time to rest, recover and be treated for the illness. In order to help keep our children healthy, Timothy Christian School requires adherence to the guidelines of this policy.

A student with any of the following symptoms will need to stay home from school until such time as the student is free of symptoms, has been satisfactorily treated, or submits a signed physician's statement that he/she is no longer contagious.

- A temperature of 100 degrees or more. Students must be fever free for 3 days, without medication, before re-entry.
- A deep, barking, unusually persistent cough/fits of coughing, or productive cough of colored mucus.
- An undetermined rash, blisters, or scaly patches over any part of the body.
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. A student must be symptom free for 24 hours without medication before re-entry.
- Red, draining eyes.
- Sore throat with fever.
- Intense itching with signs and symptoms of secondary infection.
- Open, draining lesions.
- Jaundice-a yellowish tint to eyes or skin for unknown reasons.
- Pain and/or swelling at angle of jaw.
- An unusual behavior change such as irritability, lethargy, or listlessness.

The school will segregate the ill child from well children at the school and parents will be asked to pick up the child to limit the spread of disease.

Parents of children possibly exposed to infectious diseases, as well as staff, will be informed.

The school will adhere to the exclusion and readmission recommendations.

The staff will watch for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases in classrooms where one is identified.

Communicable Disease Transmission Routes

- Airborne
- Respiratory droplets from an infected person spread by sneezing, coughing, and speaking.
- Direct skin contact with wounds or discharges from an infected person.
- Fecal-oral route when effective hand washing is not done after toileting and there is contamination of hands, food, drink, or of objects put in mouth.
- Indirect contact when microorganisms linger on objects such as doorknobs, faucet handles, desktops, phones, handrails, and computer keypads.

Coronavirus

- Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases. Currently, there is no vaccine available.
- The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure: cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
 - Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 infection should be excluded from school until the following criteria are met:
 - 10 days after their illness starts AND
 - 3 days since their fever resolved (without fever reducing medications) AND
 - all other symptoms have improved
 - Individuals who live with an individual who has tested positive or are within 6 feet of the person testing positive for more than 15 minutes should self-isolate for 14 days after their last exposure.
- Prevention of the spread is a team effort between staff, parents, students, and health care professionals.
 - Timothy Christian School helps by:
 - Teaching/encouraging proper hand washing technique.
 - Teaching effective coughing and sneeze techniques such as coughing in sleeve or Kleenex.
 - Posting signs around school as a visual reminder.
 - Encourage social distancing between students and staff when possible.
 - Encouraging staff and students to remain home when ill.
 - Make masks and gloves available.
 - Provide access to hand sanitizer throughout the school building.
 - Keep records of absences and reporting to Iowa Department of Public Health when over 10% of students are absent due to illness.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
 - Follow HIPAA and FERPA requirements when communicating with the school community.
 - Parents help by:
 - Encouraging proper hand, sneeze, and cough techniques at home.
 - Consulting healthcare provider when symptoms begin.
 - Encourage social distancing in public when possible.
 - Keeping children home when ill.
 - Students help by:
 - Washing hands with soap and water before and after eating, after sneezing or coughing in hands, after using the restroom, after playing outdoors, and any other time their hands are dirty. If soap and water are not readily available, clean hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Using tissues for sneezing and coughing or sleeve.
 - Not sharing food or drink.

Prevention Strategies For Communicable Diseases

- The school environment:
 - Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces to reduce the risk of spreading infection.
 - If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, gloves and other standard precautions are to be used to avoid coming in contact with fluid. Remove spill, then the surface is to be cleaned and disinfected.
 - Staff members are called for episodes of vomiting, large amounts of blood, feces, or urine that contaminate the floor, carpet, or restroom to be cleaned by an approved disinfectant.
 - Material soiled with vomit, blood, feces or other body fluid will be double bagged to throw away. Extra attention to periodic vigilant cleaning will be utilized in common areas such as desks, tables, drinking fountains and in high touch areas, such as computer keyboards, doorknobs and handles, and telephones.
 - Kleenex and protective equipment such as gloves and masks will be kept available.
 - Staff will be reminded about infection control and blood borne infection control procedures annually.
- Universal Precautions: a set of guidelines that assume all blood and certain other bodily potentially infectious. Universal precautions are to be followed when providing care to any individual whether or not the person is known to be infectious. These include:
 - Hand washing: Hand washing is one of the best tools for controlling the spread of infections. Hands are to be washed thoroughly with running water and soap for at least 15-20 seconds with scrubbing between fingers, under fingernails and around the tops and palms of hands. Hand washing should be done before and after eating, after using the restroom, after playing outside or sports, and after field trips to farms or places with animals. A shower is recommended for those students involved in contact sports as soon as possible
 - Personal protective equipment:
 - Gloves are to be used when in contact with blood or body fluids.
 - Protective eyewear or masks should be worn in situations where it is possible body fluids could come in contact with eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - Cleaning:
 - Blood or body spills are to be wiped up as soon as possible.
 - Spills are to be double bagged and disposed of in trash.
 - The area is to be cleaned with an approved disinfectant or bleach solution.
 - All soiled clothing should be double bagged and sent home with the person.



④SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING: Counseling Opportunities

Timothy Christian School is able to have a counselor available for the social and emotional wellbeing of our staff and students. We understand that everyone has been affected differently by the pandemic, and there has been an emotional toll on all of us. Yet, we look forward to being together again in the fall. Reuniting may bring different responses from the staff and students, and we want everyone to feel cared for and safe.



Maripili Hassman, a qualified school counselor from Cedar Falls, has offered her services to our school. She will be available to meet with parents and staff before the start of the school year, teach stress and emotional management skills to the students in September, and be available for student counseling during the school year.

Maripili is originally from the Canary Islands, Spain. She studied Psychology in Madrid and has a master degree in Counseling from Liberty University, VA. She currently serves as a school counselor at Valley Lutheran School in Cedar Falls. She is married to her husband, Jeff, and has 4 adult children. We welcome her to our Timothy Christian School family!

Also, free online counseling for any Iowan can be accessed at <https://covidrecoveryiowa.org/>

Teaching & Learning

The extended school closure last spring required Timothy Christian School to respond quickly and adjust how we provided instruction. As teachers, our responsibility within this state of emergency remained the same in that we were given the opportunity to design engaging learning opportunities for students to engage in God's story. However, we recognize that teachers approached this differently, and the students and staff existed in this state of emergency in every kind of reality imaginable at home. Some could thrive, and others could not.

Now, as we look ahead to the fall, Timothy Christian School plans to open school as normal and in-person for the next school year on Wednesday, August 26th, with some adjustments to our daily operations. We want students to have more support, to build strong relationships, and to thrive in whatever setting they find themselves. We want learning experiences to be meaningful and engaging for students in both face-to-face and at-home learning contexts. In this fluid situation, we recognize changes need to be made to keep students and staff safe and yet successful academically. Here are some options being considered:

- ① **Typical in-school instruction with enhanced precautions**
- ② **Adapting to potential in-school limitations and interruptions**
- ③ **Changes to at-home learning instruction if school closes**

① Typical in-school instruction with enhanced precautions

Our plan is to provide instruction in school for the full 2020-2021 school year with some adjustments to our daily operations. Here are the enhanced precautions for our K-8 academics:

- School-wide chapels will start the year with an emphasis on emotional and spiritual well-being.
- Health units in science will be taught during the 1st quarter.
- Iowa Assessments in math and literacy may be administered in the fall to help make instructional decisions.
- Grundy County Public Health will train staff and students in basic and effective health practices, especially in proper hand washing methods.
- Counseling classes will be provided in September.
- Google Classroom will be set up for grades 5-8 in all classes.
- Chapel, Music, and PE will be held outside if possible for more distancing.
- Teachers will continue to train and deepen their understanding and application of Teaching for Transformation core practices, which includes providing a variety of options for students to show understanding and application of learning.



② Adapting to potential in-school limitations and interruptions

Health and wellness protocols and the likelihood of COVID-19 infections and exposures will most likely increase absenteeism. It is the hope that instruction will continue to take place in school, but we also recognize the need to provide optimal care and learning opportunities for each and every student.

- Students are expected to attend school unless recommended to stay home due to health concerns from a medical professional.
- Teachers will send assignments home for students who are absent.
- Mrs. Bader, our individualized instructor, will provide additional instructional support for students who may be home for an extended period of time due to illness or exposure while school is open.
- Teachers who are home due to a confirmed exposure but feel well may be asked to work and provide instruction to their students through Zoom and Google Classroom.
- Students and teachers may need to wear masks and social distance if that is required for the school to remain open.



③ Changes to at-home learning instruction if school closes

The school will go to at-home learning instruction only if required by Public Health during high community-spread seasons. The following services will be provided for students, and continuous learning will be required:

- Teachers will prepare a two-week stand alone at-home learning kit to have ready when and if school closes suddenly.
- If the school is closed longer than two weeks, the following services will be provided.
 - Learning plans for each grade will include at-home learning activities for one week at a time using a common template with learning targets for each subject.
 - Grades 5-8 will use Google Classroom to access instruction and submit assignments online.
 - Grades 5-8 will have scheduled Zoom meetings to provide instruction, collaboration, and interactivity for each subject area at least twice a week during at-home learning.
 - Teachers may also make instructional videos for students to access on their own time.
 - Grades K-4 will use learning packets, Google Docs for learning guides, and meet over Zoom for instruction.
 - Grades K-4 will have scheduled Zoom meetings to provide instruction, collaboration, and interactivity with the entire class once a week.
 - Teachers will meet with each student individually over Zoom once a week to provide individualized instruction.
 - Additional instruction may be done with recorded videos.
- Teachers will provide a variety of ways for students to communicate their learning and show competency.
- For grades K-2, at-home learning will be assessed using standards-based progress reports.
- For grades 3-8, at-home learning assignments may be assessed using a rubric that is still

under development. Considerations for this rubric include completion, accuracy, following directions, legibility, and time management. The common rubric and grading system will be communicated when finalized.



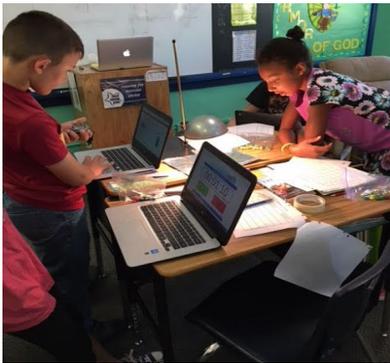
Draft At-home Learning Assignment Grading Rubric

SUBJECT:	ASSIGNMENT:	STUDENT NAME:		
COMPLETION How much of the assignment was completed?	The entire assignment was completed.	3/4 of the assignment was completed.	At least 1/2 of the assignment was completed.	Less than 1/2 of the assignment was completed.
ACCURACY How much of the assignment was done right?	The entire assignment (or almost all) of the assignment was done correctly.	3/4 of the assignment was done correctly.	At least 1/2 of the assignment was done correctly.	Less than 1/2 of the assignment was done correctly.
DIRECTIONS Did you follow directions?	The assignment was done and all directions were followed.	The assignment was done with 3/4 of the directions being followed.	The assignment was done with 1/2 of the directions being followed.	Less than 1/2 of the directions were followed.
LEGIBILITY/ NEATNESS Is the work neat and legible?	Very neat. All work is in the student's handwriting unless specified differently in assignment directions.	Mostly neat and legible. 3/4 of the work is in the student's handwriting unless specified differently in assignment directions.	Slightly legible. 1/2 of the work is in the student's handwriting unless specified differently in assignment directions.	Not legible. Hard to read. Less than 1/2 of the work is in the student's handwriting unless specified differently in assignment directions.
TIME MANAGEMENT Was the assignment turned in on time?	The assignment was turned in on time.	The assignment was turned in one day late.	The assignment was turned in two days late.	The assignment was turned in more than two days late.

Technology

Currently, students are given access to iPads and Chromebooks during school hours only. Students in grades 3-8 are assigned to a specific Chromebook and asked to adhere to the school's internet and technology use policies.

If school would need to close and transition to at-home learning instruction, then school Chromebooks may be sent home for students to access instruction through Google Classroom and Zoom on an as-needed basis.



School Operations & Facilities

As Timothy Christian School opens this fall and considers how to help protect students, parents, teachers, and staff while trying to slow the spread of COVID-19, the following school operations and facility changes will occur:

- Teachers are encouraged to arrange their classroom to promote social distancing when possible.
- Teachers and students will have the option to practice social distancing by having classes outside or in the gym when available, especially Music and PE.
- Teachers and students will be trained in basic and effective health practices.
- Grundy County Public Health will be notified if the school becomes aware of a student or teacher who tested positive or was exposed to COVID-19.
- The school will follow HIPAA and FERPA requirements when communicating with the school community about possible positive COVID-19 cases and student exposure.
- The school will follow all legally binding guidelines from Grundy County Public Health regarding changes to school operations.

School Operations & Facilities Continued

- Touchless automatic hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed in each hallway and by each drinking fountain.
- Hand sanitizer pumps will be placed near the door in each classroom. Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer each time they leave and enter the classroom.
- Students will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water before and after eating, after sneezing or coughing in hands, after using the restroom, after playing outdoors, and any other time their hands are dirty.
- Face masks and gloves will be available for those who want them. Students and staff may be asked to wear a face mask when coughing and sneezing symptoms occur.
- A handheld sterilizer wand will be used to sterilize PE and recess equipment and highly touched areas.
- Disinfectant wipes will be available in each classroom and office.
- Teachers and office staff will spray highly trafficked areas of classrooms with disinfectant spray at the end of each school day.
- Signs will be posted throughout the building on proper hand washing methods and COVID-19 symptoms.
- The school may hire a certified cleaner to disinfect the entire school during a required closure.



We recognize that there is inevitably some risk that attends any social gathering, including school. We believe that the measures we described in this plan will minimize those risks and yet maintain the integrity of the educational environment. Nevertheless, only the parents can determine what degree of risk you are willing to assume in returning your children to Timothy Christian School. May God help us discern what is best for the children entrusted to our care.

If there are any questions or concerns about this plan, please contact Administrator Rebecca Johnson at 319-415-0351 or rjohnson@timothychristianschool.net.

Note: This document will be revised and updated by the administration and school board as deemed necessary and as health guidance changes.

No matter what happens, we praise God for the hope we have in Christ!

Praise to God for a Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19

UPCOMING EVENTS

Return to Learn Plan Parent Meeting.....	August 20th, 6:30 PM
Return to Learn Staff Meeting.....	August 24th, 9:00 AM
All-School Picnic.....	August 24th, 6:30 PM
First Day of School and Opening Chapel.....	August 26th, 8:20 AM