

August 14, 2020 Mask update: All students, Kindergarten to Year 10 are now required to wear masks. Learning Facilitators will inform students when it is safe to remove their mask in school and outdoors.

Thank you for your thoughtful questions regarding re-entry. We are working through the logistics of how best to proceed and changing plans as additional information is provided. We do know that the re-opening of schools will be a process and any required changes will be made.

Here are answers to questions that have been submitted. The topic and questions are listed and then a response is provided.

We are trying to provide stable, enhanced programming for our families. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a safe, secure environment and provide required staffing without having clear procedures that allow us to provide services.

The deadline for registering for the “At-Home Learning Program” that runs from September 1 to December 18 has been extended to August 20, 2020.

Topic: At Home Learning

Questions:

1. Will ‘At Home Learning’ be more structured than before? Will there be daily lessons offered, or is it largely self-directed?
2. Will there be a dedicated home learning teacher or is my child assigned a class which he belongs to in a pod?
3. What further information are you able to give me regarding “At-Home Learning?”
4. If we choose to send our children to school, would we be able to switch to “At-Home Learning” anytime between August 19 and December 18th?
5. If my child goes for the first two weeks and doesn’t feel comfortable continuing school, does she have the option to switch over to ‘At-Home Learning’ for Kindergarten?
6. I’m curious if there is an option for “At-Home Learning” for Kindergarten or is it only Years 1-9?
7. In the event that students are required to go into quarantine for 14 days, will their education go to ‘At Home Learning’ or do you anticipate that this will be a time of high stress and there will be no school for these students?
8. I have some concerns regarding how “At-Home Learning” would work but my child misses going to school and would like to attend in person. If she gets sick, things are not working well or I feel uncomfortable sending her to school, would it be possible to switch to “At-Home Learning” then?
9. When a cohort group within the school inevitably required to quarantine at home for 10 days, do they join the same “At-Home Learning” program or will they be on a separate platform doing modified assignments while they wait out the time?
10. We are weighing our options before sending our two children back to school. We are wondering if you could send us some more info on the “At-Home Learning” program.
11. My second question is, will it be CAA staff who teach the “At-Home Learning” program or will it be regular CBE Hub Learning Staff? We have another child in a traditional CBE school and

have been reading about their Hub Learning option. I'm not sure if there are different options for traditional schools versus charter schools. Our preference is to be in a CAA home learning program for our child who attends CAA.

12. Do you know if the online curriculum will mirror the tailgate of last year's curriculum?
13. I'm wondering if I can please have more details on the "At-Home Learning" option. I don't feel equipped to decide which option is best for us without knowing more about what "At-Home Learning" could look like.
14. I'm wondering if families will have an opportunity to access both online and in school learning.

Response:

At-Home Learning is not the same as the online learning program previously provided to CAA students. The difference is: All Learning Facilitators were online daily and/or were preparing video lessons that students could access. For the 'At-Home Learning' program, there will be limited staff providing this service based on the number of students that are registered.

The At-Home Learning program that we will now provide is a supplemental service for CAA families. There are two separate instances where 'At-Home Learning' applies:

1. Temporary absence from school.
2. Registered 'At Home Learning' from September 1 to December 18.

Temporary Absence from School

When there is a temporary absence, (illness/quarantine) the classroom Learning Facilitator will be responsible to provide learning activities for individual students. Individual Learning Facilitators will communicate with families. This provides the classroom Learning Facilitator with the opportunity to provide student-specific, short-term activities with the knowledge that the student will return to class within a defined period of time. This programming will be available when school begins on August 19, 2020.

Registered At-Home Learning: September 1 – December 18th

We are waiting to know how many students register for the At-Home Learning program that will operate from September 1 to December 18. Staffing assignment and structure is dependent on the number of students that register for this program. Students registered in this program are committed to remain in the program until December 18 in order to ensure safety and provide required staffing. At this time, we are not offering flexibility regarding entering and leaving the 'At-Home Learning' program.

We know this program will be facilitated in one of the following ways:

1. Team Facilitator for each team will be responsible for program delivery.
2. Specific, identified staff will be assigned to coordinate programming for all students.

At Calgary Arts Academy, all students are responsible to complete learning contracts in addition to receiving daily assignments. We are able to provide online contact with peers through Microsoft Teams and are currently exploring the option of providing live online classes where students who are able to interact directly with their Learning Facilitator.

Both 'At-Home Learning' options provide the same curriculum content expectations and the same learning contracts. Our curriculum is generative in nature. As artists and teachers plan together, the curriculum we provide is uniquely planned and is different each year.

Kindergarten is an optional program. This means that students are not required to attend Kindergarten. In Kindergarten, we focus on literacy and structured play. CAA Learning Facilitators will provide activities that can be facilitated by parents at home. We are not currently able to provide 'At-Home Learning' at this level.

CAA is a public charter school. We are governed by the CAA Society Board of Directors. We are choosing to provide an "At-Home Learning" program that is unique to CAA and our Charter goals.

Topic: Mental Health and Wellness

Questions:

1. What is the school offering to off set the stressful environment all of these procedures will be creating?
2. How are teachers going to minimize the anxiety and stress of the kids not being able to see their teachers faces?
3. How close do you anticipate the school experience being to last year? Students are excited to go back and see their friends, but if the experience you'll be offering is vastly different from what they expect, they need to be mentally prepared for that. How do you plan on preparing them?

Response:

Calgary Arts Academy has consulted with The Alberta Association of Public Charter Schools Crisis Intervention Response Team. All staff will share information regarding the current pandemic and engage students in meaningful ways to help students understand and maintain resiliency during our current reality. Mental health will be an area of focus.

We will continue to focus on the pillars of our school including the Circle of Courage (belonging, independence, mastery and generosity), Developmental Assets, Democratic Discipline and Learning Contracts. These pillars engage students through focusing on individual strengths.

We will ensure that students are able to take frequent breaks from sitting. Movement activities, active breaks and individual hands-on learning activities will be provided.

Topics: Class Size / Adult Interaction with students / Kindergarten / Education Centre / Learning Studios

Questions:

1. How big will class sizes be and where will they be held?

2. How many adults will each class have access to? Will they only engage with one teacher?
3. I noticed that there is no mention of afternoon classes for Kindergartens in the first two weeks is it still available or is it only morning classes now. My daughter was registered for afternoon classes so I'm just wondering if I am supposed to be sending her in the morning or afternoon like planned.
4. What is the maximum possible class size for students at the Knob Hill campus (assuming all CAA students return to school)?
5. Can you please provide more information about the studio use at the Education Centre? What is the maximum number of children (assuming all students return to in-person learning) that will be allowed in each studio at any one time? Will there be up to 100 students together at various points during the day as in previous years?
6. Can you please provide more information about how you plan to use the gymnasium as a classroom space? Will this be a permanent space for some students?
7. Will all Education Centre students eat lunch in their studios? What is the maximum number of people (students and adults) that will be eating in a studio at one time?
8. How often will students be moving between buildings (e.g., from the EC to TransAlta, and back)? Will this be similar to previous years?
9. My daughter is attending grade one this year and I wanted to know how many students will be in the classroom and if they will be spacing the desks 6ft apart?
10. We are just wondering where the student entrance is for the Education Center, that area is listed as the place where we should drop off our daughter for school? We have only ever been to the school once and that was over a year ago. Will there be any sort of school orientation on August 18th? We would like to walk her to the Student Entrance for the first day, is there a place where we can park and walk to the school that is allowed? Once she is comfortable with where to go upon arriving is there an area to do a quick stop to drop off that doesn't interfere with school buses?

Response:

Class size (cohort) refers to the number of children assigned to one teacher. Our current registration has the following class sizes:

Kindergarten	a.m. 27	
	p.m. 23	There is an afternoon class.
Year 1	3 classes	19 / 20 / 20
Year 2	4 classes	26 / 26 / 26 / 26
Year 4/5	4 classes	25 / 26 / 25 / 26
Year 6/7	4 classes	25 / 25 / 24 / 24
Year 8/9	4 classes	24 / 24 / 24 / 23
Year 10	1 class	13

At Calgary Arts Academy, artists are Learning Facilitators for Music, Dance, Visual Art, Literary Art and Drama. In addition to this, there are education assistants, a library assistant and specialists including physical education and music, School Administration, an IT specialist, security personnel, Early Reading Intervention assistants and lunchroom supervisors.

We are focusing on reducing the number of adults working with cohort groups of students as we begin re-entry. This means that all students will work directly with their regular teacher, the physical education specialist and two artists for a two-week period. The regular timetable will be implemented when successful re-entry is accomplished and it is deemed safe. Our community will be notified.

At the Education Centre, all Trans Alta Performing Arts studios will be used to facilitate social distancing. Movement will be closely monitored and limited.

For the first two weeks, we have 50% of CAA students coming each day. This will allow students and staff to transition slowly and constructively.

The maximum number of students in a learning studio at the Education Centre will be 50 students. The studio size varies from approximately 2,800 square feet to over 3,000 square feet. At the Education Centre, we will be using the gymnasium as Year 4/5 classroom space. This provides a large classroom space with a divider curtain to maintain two separate, distinct areas. This space will be used for the foreseeable future.

We will also use studios in the TransAlta Performing Arts Studios building to provide additional space for appropriate distancing.

These parameters may change should we be required to move to a different scenario.

All students will eat their lunch at their assigned class spaces.

At Knob Hill, each class is approximately 800 square feet. This is true for most schools in the province. It is not possible to provide 6 feet between each child when the entire class returns to school. Furniture (rectangular tables) will be positioned to provide maximum distancing.

New Education Centre families will receive information regarding student entrance doors, parking and drop off procedures early next week.

Topic: Masks / Sitting at Desks

Questions:

1. How often do you estimate the children will be required to wear masks based on the activities planned for each day? How many hours and length of each wear?
2. The answer to 'will my child be required to sit at a desk all day' was not very satisfactory and very vague. I have a K and grade 1 student and would like to have an idea of what a day will look like now. Will they still do drums, art, how much active time is required, what is the minimum time they will be outside. How much time is expected to be seated?
3. Are students from Grade 4-9 able to choose to wear face shields instead of masks. This is a question from parents who have children with anxiety issues or asthma concerns.
4. How are the younger students going to learn reading and sounds without being able to see their teachers faces?

5. There is no mention of having to wear a mask on the bus, even though this is a very enclosed space. Will students NOT be expected to wear a mask on the bus? I thought there was a provincial expectation that all students had to wear a mask on the bus?
6. I would like to send our children back to school but they are both Asthmatic and have allergies. Are they still required to wear face masks? I do not wish for our children to wear the masks due to health reasons and would like to know if sending them back to school without a mask is still an option for us? I would bring in doctors notes if needed.

Exceptions to the face coverings bylaw include: People with underlying medical conditions or disabilities inhibiting their ability to wear a face covering.

Please note: Proof is not required if someone has an exception.

Response:

Students will wear masks when entering or exiting the building, in all common areas, and when participating in activities where social distancing is not possible. Based on individual choice and comfort level of families, students may remove their masks when the Learning Facilitator is comfortable that the activity provides appropriate social distancing. Our best guess is that students will use their mask 60% of each day.

For students that are navigating through common areas such as hallways and washrooms, the use of a face shield is not as effective as the use of a mask covering. Face shields provide more protection for eyes and nose. We would highly encourage parents to start practicing using a mask with their children to curb some of the anxiety. Any exemption due to medical conditions such as asthma or other special needs is still unclear according to Alberta Health. CAA has been advised to maintain a strict policy. At this point, there will not be any exemptions. As Alberta Health updates the guidance documents, our policy regarding exemptions may be modified.

It is possible in individual cases to arrange scheduled times (as required) where students would be allowed to leave the classroom setting and take off their mask in a safe space. Please email kloftus@caaschool.com should you wish to schedule a phone interview with a member of the Administration team.

All Learning Facilitators are aware of the guidelines regarding 'time on task' for all ages of students (a few minutes for Kindergarten and 20 minutes for older students.) There will be frequent activities including short, physical activities to ensure students are not required to sit at tables for inappropriate periods of time. **All students will be seated at tables.**

All types of safe activities will be provided. Yes, students are able to play drums, complete visual art projects, act, dance etc. This is what we are all about; hands-on learning and teaching!

When social distanced, Learning Facilitators will remove masks in order to facilitate teaching and learning.

All students will wear masks on buses.

Topic: Volunteers

Questions:

1. Are there still classroom volunteers? If there is not, is there additional staffing? How many adults will be in with the afternoon Kindergarten class?

Response:

Staff are able to request classroom volunteers. All volunteers will be required to following staff protocols.

Topic: Kindergarten

Questions:

1. Is it correct that there are no options for Kindergarten children aside from sending them full-time? If this is correct, can you please help me understand why this decision was made?
2. How many adults will be in with the afternoon Kindergarten class?
3. Is there an option for “At-Home Learning” for Kindergarten or is it only Years 1-9?
4. Does this mean that on the alternate days when K-class isn’t available, that our child will be in the after-school care program all day or do we have to find alternate arrangements for those days.

Response:

Kindergarten is an optional program. The main area of focus for Kindergarten students is structured play. We are not able to provide an ‘At-Home Learning’ program at this level as there is one teacher.

Kindergarten is provided for the morning or afternoon, not the entire day.

That said, we will provide parents with activities that could be parent directed at home.

Kindergarten students will work in small cohort groups. Each cohort group will be provided with materials and students will not be seated at tables for long periods of time. Staff will ensure Kindergarten students have frequent breaks, appropriate to their development.

There will be two regular staff members in the Kindergarten program, the Learning Facilitator and an Education Assistant.

Topic: Outdoors

Question:

1. How much time will students be spending outdoors?

Response:

Learning Facilitators are encouraged to utilize the outdoors as much as possible for all appropriate learning activities. This is of course, dependent on weather.

Topic: Sanitizer

Question:

1. What type of sanitizer will be used? I know the Zoo is effectively using a liquid spray bottle type that is very quick to be administered and handled by only one person.
2. Can families provide hand sanitizer?

Response:

CAA uses two different products, clarion hand sanitizer made by Betco. This product is 62% alcohol. This is a standard product for all institutions. The second is Genesis, made by Genesis Chemical. This is 80% alcohol.

Students may bring their own sanitizer. At school, all students will use the sanitizer provided as it meets provincial guidelines and is non-scented.

Topic: Responding to illness

Questions:

1. In the 'Responding to Illness' section the second item says the following: - Students exhibiting signs of illness will be asked to wear a mask ... Aren't the students already wearing a mask as per the daily expectations while in the building? Why is this sentence phrasing that way?

Response:

At the time of writing the re-entry plan, masks were optional for students in Kindergarten to Year 3. Now, masks are required for all students.

Topic: Transportation

Questions:

1. Will the staggered entry and dismissal times affect the bus ride; will the buses run on a staggered schedule? If so with this staggered schedule continue after September 9th?
2. After receiving the reopening plan for CAA I have questions regarding how bussing will work. I know that we have the staggered start & dismissal times and am inquiring how this will work for families with multiple kids in different grades and at both campuses?

What is the policy/procedure for students being early and or late. How will it work in the afternoon with our child being brought to the DT campus.

Response:

Staggered entry does not affect bus ride times. All buses will be unloaded as quickly as possible when they arrive. At CAA, we understand that there are times students may be late. We may ask for a reason. We are always glad to welcome students.

Please call CAA Transportation should you require additional assistance. (403-532-3020)

Topic: Scenario 3

Question:

1. If Scenario 3 becomes necessary, will teachers be expected to follow-up on a weekly basis with parent emails to address learning concerns or failure to meet assignment submissions? My student had a very difficult time learning during March to June because that type of learning is not the kind of learning that my student needs to find success, but I did not hear from any of the teachers regarding any learning concerns. Yes, I was contacted 2-3 times just to touch base and see “how we were doing”; which seemed more related to the Covid-19 situation in general and mental health but not at all related to learning progress. As a result, my student missed out on 4 months of quality learning under normal circumstances and of course that time can’t be gotten back. So perhaps that would be an area that needs closer attention and follow through if Scenario 3 is implemented so that this next year of school doesn’t become a waste of time

Response:

At CAA, student success is a shared responsibility between the school and home. Learning Facilitators do have the direct responsibility to facilitate student learning and to communicate with parents in order to plan for the success of each child. Should Scenario 3 happen, we trust that parents will be active partners with the school. Staff will have assigned time online and will communicate with students each day to present lessons, assist with learning contracts and provide guidance for parents.

Topic: Technology

Question:

1. Will students be allowed to bring their own laptop devices? Will the students in grades 8 and 9 need to have their own laptops or would it be more beneficial to their learning if they have their own laptop?

Response:

Calgary Arts Academy is a Mac environment. We are not able to provide every student with a device. Students will be provided with a device as required and may use their phone as a learning tool. Many of the software programs are not standard as they are designed to enhance Arts Immersion learning in the Mac environment. Please check with the classroom teacher to determine if a particular home device would prove to be beneficial.

Topic: School Tours

Question:

1. How can we see the school before classes begin? (3 families asking)

Response:

Due to COVID-19 preparation and safety concerns, we are not able to provide new families with the opportunity to tour our facilities at this time. Hopefully, most families attended the information and registration meetings before COVID-19. Mr. Ed Mitchell has volunteered to provide a few pictures of classrooms as they are now; prepared for social distancing following Scenario 1 guidelines. We will post this to our website, and provide the link to our community when available.

Topic: Self-Assessment / Pre-existing condition / Testing

Question:

1. In the list of self-assessment items, several of them are common to other things; for example, muscle/joint pain can be caused by body growth, headaches could be associated with the onset of migraines and for teenage girls, the symptoms of nausea, headache and not feeling well are typical of their monthly periods. My question is: how will you want parents to discern the "Covid-19" symptoms with simply suffering from being a human being? To some extent, that doesn't seem reasonable!
2. If a child has a pre-existing condition, how do I notify the secretary, so we know this is on file?
3. Are staff being tested prior to the start of school.

When completing the student registration form, parents are asked to provide any pertinent medical information. In addition, we will send home a document with your child that asks you to verify information on file, including medical information. Please complete this and return it to the school as soon as possible.

We recommend that any students with pre-existing conditions be tested before school begins.

All staff have received the Alberta Education recommendation to be tested before school begins.

We have encouraged all staff to comply with this request.

Topic: Staggered Entry

Question:

1. Can my child switch their staggered entry dates to be with their friends?

Response:

At this point, we are dealing with safety and security and mental health and wellness. The staggered entry is designed for maximum efficiency for transportation and for accommodating families with more than one child attending the school. We are not able to handle individual requests at this time. As staggered entry is for a six-day time period for each student, we appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for reading and for your patience. We will strive to answer additional questions in a timely manner.