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Collegedale Academy: HOS Summer update

*Never be afraid to
trust an unknown
future to a known
God. – Corrie Ten
Boom*

Welcome to the 2020-21 CA school year (the year of Corona:).

Welcome & Spiritual musings

Currently we are one month and 4 days away from the school year beginning . . . YIKES! This summer has seemingly vanished into thin air. As you know, we have some major decisions to make, as we face the specter of opening school during a surge of positive virus tests. We also know there are multiple opinions as how to handle these situations in relationship to our school.

I do have a faith that ultimately God is in control. John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid and Matthew 6:34 - Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. With God's promises, I know we all stand on solid ground and the events of this life will not overwhelm.

It seems that Satan has gone to great lengths to divide us as human beings. He has gone to great lengths to deny the sanctity of life and compassion for each other. Regardless of the direction the school decides to go on these issues, there will be a group that disagrees. In our school community we will have differences in how best to handle this situation. This is completely understandable. However, we need to combat the extremes by bonding as a team, setting aside our minor differences and allow for Christ's splendor to flow through us. If we do this, Collegedale Academy will stand as a beacon on the hill of what true Christianity represents. Our administrative team believes wholeheartedly, with the staff we have, we can accomplish this mission.

Wow - didn't mean to get so philosophical, but God is tugging on my heart:!!!! I've been praying for our school community this summer. This time has not been easy for any of us. I've spoken with several school staff and parents that have severe issues/concerns. I can't even begin to imagine how I would deal with these situations. Eph. 6:18 - In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

School Start 2020-21

A reminder that Registration is July 30 1-7pm for high school, 3-7pm middle/elementary. The first day of school will be August 6, 2020.

*Educate, Equip,
Inspire, Serve*

CA COVID-19 Plan

Our CA COVID-19 plan for the upcoming school year, has been approved by our school board executive committee. **PLEASE NOTE: this is a dynamic document (just see our mayor's announcement yesterday).** This document addresses the larger issues involved with running a safe, healthy school during our current pandemic.

As a recap, there were several processes we went through to come up with our document. I was on the GCC School Opening Committee that meet several times in June. Our Administrative Committee (Steve, Barbara, Missy, and I) then spent hours pouring over the latest research, GCC recommendations, State of Tennessee recommendations, and Hamilton County Health Department (HCHD) recommendations. We met with a COVID-19 task force comprised of faculty, parents, board members, and medical personnel to review plan (thank you to all those that helped!). I've spoken directly with medical personnel in our school community, parents, and staff. The document was then revised further.

Currently the HCHD is reviewing our plan for an additional input. We are planning on meeting with the HCHD this coming Friday, July 10. While we do not need to follow every HCHD recommendation, variations to their recommendations may expose us to a number of liabilities. Those of you that work in hospitals or own a business are living this concern as well. Our GCC has recommended we follow local health department guidelines as closely as possible.

KEY ITEMS IN OUR PLAN:

1. We are beginning the year on an Amended Back-to-School schedule (see CA COVID-plan).
2. Students will be given the opportunity to attend in-person or virtually. We clearly articulate our school was not built for a focus on virtual education (teachers will teach to in-person class - online learners will listen in . . . after instruction teacher will interact with virtual learners). However, we are committed to giving families that elect the virtual option an outstanding, **Adventist** education. There may be some differences in this - particularly in the elementary.
3. Please contact your building principal as soon as possible if your family would prefer virtual vs. in-person education.
4. Temperatures/screening will occur before or while entering building.
5. We are currently proposing masks are not required but highly recommended (**As of yesterday, Hamilton County is requiring everyone wear masks in public so our own document is outdated. Apparently 12 and under do not need to wear masks**) . . .stay tuned as this will undoubtedly be debated throughout education over the next few weeks).
6. Our school will follow HCHD recommendations to the best of our ability.

School Community Zoom meeting July 9, 2020 6:30pm/QUESTIONS:

Due to the sensitivity of the matter at hand, we believe every individual in our school community has the right to listen to the plan and ask pertinent questions. Our agenda will be to read through the document and answer questions you may have. We will stay on as long as needed!

As far as questions, you may have one that has not been considered. To help expedite our discussion, please email those questions to me, so I can compile a list for a Frequently Asked Question. Prior to our School Community Zoom meeting, we will send an email with those FAQ's. (Questions like music, younger vs. older kids, sports, how virtual works, etc.)

Collegedale Academy is an Adventist school whose mission is to **educate, equip, and inspire** students to be critical thinkers, **serve** others, and reflect Christ's character.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."