

Dear Lower School families,

Many Lower School (LS) families have asked questions lately about the upcoming school year. We are aware that everyone seeks clear, unwavering answers. However, the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic is fluid and our plans must be flexible to reflect the most current recommendations and guidelines offered by our guiding organizations (CDC, NCDHHS, NCAIS and SAIS). Decisions for our school will be based upon the most current information available. Paramount to us is the provision of a safe learning environment for our students and school community. We acknowledge that although we are making the best decisions we can for the moment, it may be necessary to amend our plans and revise answers to questions. We will keep you informed of any changes that may be necessary.

Below you will find questions that have been raised by LS families in the last few days. Answers are based on current information and decisions as of June 29, 2020.

Again, we will keep you informed of changes to our plans that may become necessary as more information about COVID-19 is shared with us. Please continue to check the [Return 2020](#) page of our school's website for the latest updates and do not hesitate to reach out to our Academic Team with questions you may have.

Thank you,
Ronnie K. Wall and TBS Academic Team

Will LS return to campus on August 17, 2020?

All divisions of TBS, including LS, will return to campus in *orange phase* on August 17, 2020. More information about *orange phase* is available [here](#).

Will LS offer a remote learning option in *orange phase*?

Yes. We will offer a remote option for Lower School students during *orange phase*. It will be an asynchronous and modified schedule, including a recorded daily lesson in math and language arts, and access to assignment materials via Google Classroom. Weekly, asynchronous lessons (not occurring at the same time as in-person lessons) for specials will be provided on a rotating basis (for example, music and drama one week, Spanish and art the next, etc.). As of June 29, we do not plan to provide live, synchronous remote lessons for Lower School students during *orange phase*. In other words, students whose families choose remote learning during *orange phase* may not have the opportunity to interact with their peers and teachers during the school day.

Will LS students wear face masks?

As of June 29 and following Governor Cooper's face mask mandate, face masks will be optional for LS students. All adults in the school building will wear face masks.

Will my child need a daily health screening before entering the building?

Before exiting vehicles, all students will receive a temperature screening using a temporal, touchless thermometer. Students with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher or who exhibit physical signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility.

Will parents be allowed to enter the building?

As of June 29, parents will not be permitted to enter the building with students. As the COVID-19 situation improves, we hope to ease this restriction and allow parents access to the hallways. Parents will be required to wear a mask when entering the building. We will keep you informed when we are able to begin to ease the restriction of nonessential visitors.

Will the playground be open for students?

No. We cannot ensure that students will observe social distancing on the playground. Weather permitting, our students will have daily outdoor recess in other locations on our campus. As the COVID-19 situation improves, we hope to reopen the playground for our students.

I have a preschool student. If it is necessary to move to *red phase*, what will happen with preschool?

If *red phase* becomes necessary, we plan to convert our preschool education program to a childcare program that will include select elements from our regular curriculum. It will not include our full curriculum offerings, such as specials classes. Childcare for our preschool students will be available Monday-Friday beginning at 7:30 a.m. *Red phase* remote learning will be available to our preschool students who do not participate in the childcare program.

If Governor Cooper closes public school campuses for the start of the school year, will TBS also close its campus?

While we will carefully consider any mandates issued to *public* schools, we will make the best decision for our students and school community based on the information we have from our guiding organizations. We will not violate the law and ignore mandates for *all* schools. We will hold student and school community safety paramount when deciding if our campus should remain in *orange phase* (open for all students with moderate social distancing) or move to *red phase* (remote learning for all students, with a childcare program available for preschool students).

What will be different in LS this school year if TBS moves to *red phase*?

Please see the table below for a summary of changes in LS remote learning you can expect to see for Fall 2020 if *red phase* becomes necessary.

Spring 2020 versus Fall 2020: *What Will Be Different?*

Spring 2020	Fall 2020
crisis remote learning, attempted to use same instructional methods and tools as are used with in-person learning	planned remote learning, with time for thoughtful design of instructional methods, tools, online resources, and materials
each classroom used a different learning platform, resources/assignments were difficult to access	all teachers will use Google Classroom; all instructional resources, assignments, videos, and teacher communication will be accessed in Google Classroom
class schedules were inconsistent	daily class schedules will be consistent, including “specials” classes
face-to-face time with teachers was limited	consistent, scheduled whole group, small group, and individual face-to-face times each week; daily office hours offered by teachers

assignments were paper-based and needed to be printed at home or picked up at school	assignments will be given in a digital format when possible; students will return their work in a digital format when possible
students received delayed feedback on assignments	digital assignments will receive immediate feedback (24-48 hours); feedback for non-digital assignments will be given bi-weekly
limited experience with technology (students, teachers, parents)	training will be provided over the summer for teachers; students will receive guided practice with technology upon return to school in August; TBS will provide a webinar/video lesson for parents to help them acclimate to Google Classroom
limited “specials” classes	“specials” classes will occur twice each week, with at least one live lesson offered each week
students were given too much work to complete (families had difficulty balancing family work demands and school demands)	To help families manage time and expectations, teachers will provide a weekly overview of all objectives, assignments, and activities; also provided will be a list of “must do” and “optional” assignments/activities. Families should keep in contact with their child’s teacher if they feel the workload is too heavy.
students were not given enough work (families expected teachers to be in direct contact with students for most or all the regular school day)	teachers will design a learning experience to fill a developmentally appropriate amount of instructional time each day; that experience will be a mix of synchronous (face-to-face) and asynchronous learning and may include direct instruction, guided practice, independent practice, play, assessment, and independent work time
some parents found it difficult to keep students motivated to participate in remote learning	teachers will provide a suggested schedule for your child’s school day; we will continue to rely on parents to partner with us and assist students to facilitate the learning experience

If red phase becomes necessary, how much instructional time should I expect my child to receive each day?

Expected *minimum* amount of time in remote learning each day in *Red Phase*

Grade Level	Instructional Time includes regular classroom (whole group and small group) and “specials”
PS3	minimum 2 hours + weekly individual check-in
PS4	minimum 2 hours + weekly individual check-in
Kindergarten	minimum 2.5-3 hours + weekly individual check-in
1 st grade	minimum 3.5-4 hours + weekly individual check-in
2 nd grade	minimum 3.5-4 hours + weekly individual check-in
3 rd grade	minimum 3.5-4 hours + weekly individual check-in
4 th grade	minimum 3.5-4 hours + weekly individual check-in

If red phase becomes necessary, what will my child’s daily schedule be?

Schedules will vary by grade level. Your child's classroom teacher will share weekly schedules with you. Below you will find two sample schedules to review.

Preschool 4 Sample *Red Phase* Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:00	morning circle/ calendar/ review of daily objectives				
9:00-9:20	small group direct instruction, asynchronous activity for other students				
9:20-9:30	snack				
9:30-10:00	Music	Spanish	Library	Music	Spanish
10:00-10:30	whole group direct instruction (social-emotional learning, language development, literacy, math)				
10:30-10:45	Show & Tell	Guidance	Show & Tell	Show & Tell	Show & Tell
10:45-11:00		restroom break		restroom break	
11-11:30		HL		HL	
teacher's office hours 12:15-2:15					

3rd grade Sample *Red Phase* Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:00	morning circle/sharing/discussion of daily objectives and assignments				
9:00-9:30	Library	Music	Drama	Music	Drama
9:30-10:00	small group direct instruction and asynchronous activity for other students				
10:00-10:30	direct, whole group instruction (language arts, math, science, social studies, social-emotional)				Spanish
10:30-10:45	direct, whole-group instruction	HL	direct, whole-group instruction		
10:45-11:30	small group direct instruction and asynchronous activity for other students				
11:30-12:00	Art	Guidance	Spanish	Art	HL
12:00-12:30	shared reading, collaborative student work groups, student presentations				
teacher's office hours 1:15-3:15					