



Safe Start 2020:

WEBB'S

REPENING PLAN



Dear Webb Families,

We are excited to reopen and greet you in person for our 151st school year! From my perspective, it could not be clearer that our faculty and staff have missed you very much. As our excitement grows for Opening Day 2020 and our reunion with our students and parents, we want to reunite safely and manage for the safest fall possible. Toward that end, we have researched and collaborated with national, state, and local agencies, associations, and peer schools, and created a plan for a safe reopening. We have chosen the tag line: Safe Start 2020: Webb's Reopening Plan. This plan will be posted on our website, and it will be updated frequently. What you will see in today's iteration of the plan is the clarity we have as of Friday, June 19, 2020; we will post updates every two weeks at a minimum. We will continue a broad, collaborative process of discerning and implementing the emerging best practices for school and community responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. That said, we are most optimistic that we will be able to create and sustain an

environment that will allow the full and robust Webb education that has transformed the lives of thousands of Webb alumni.

Our priority is and has been to learn and collaborate in person, as safely as possible, while providing an online companion, as synchronous as possible, for those students and families who may not be able to start with us and/or who may need to learn from home for short periods of time. Responding to so many different ideas and uncertainty and providing clarity, we offer our dynamic Safe Start 2020: Webb's Reopening Plan, which consists of six broad areas. These categories are interdependent and interconnected, and our leadership team will plan and implement in the same interdependent and interconnected manner to ensure the safest environment possible.

The six broad categories that are highlighted on the right can be found on the website for you to go deeper in one, some, or all areas, at

your leisure and interest. You will also see the name of the point person for each area should you have additional questions. Community Events actually encompasses several departments, depending upon the focus of the event, so Mrs. Sullens may connect you to Julie Harris, Director of Enrollment Management, or Matt Wilson, Director of Alumni and Development.

In closing, I humbly thank you for your continued faith and trust in The Webb School. I am honored to partner with you in the education of your son or daughter. I will be in communication with you at least every two weeks with the next update and communication no later than Thursday, July 2nd. At that time, we will announce dates for a series of webinars to give you more detailed information and the opportunity to ask questions. Safety and blessings to you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Cheeseman
Head of School

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Tabetha Sullens,
Assistant Head for Student Affairs

ACADEMICS AND ARTS

Nicole Taucare,
Dean of Academics and Art

ATHLETICS

Scott Dorsett,
Athletic Director

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tabetha Sullens,
Assistant Head for Student Affairs

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Jon Bloom,
Dean of Students and Residential Life

FINANCES

Jim Callis,
*Associate Head for Finance
and Operations*



Health and Safety

As we look to reconvene and welcome new families to our school community in August, we strive to create a student experience of which each of your children will be proud to be a part. To ensure teaching and learning are practices of excellence, we have taken many steps to ensure the academic day is reminiscent of the school day experience prior to COVID-19.



Each day, we honor our Enduring Understandings, which are the hallmarks of The Webb School. Each person shares the responsibility and honor of SERVING OTHERS. To serve your child in the best way possible, our top priorities are student, community, and family safety. We value the relational aspect of every academic day. The face-to-face experiences faculty and students share cannot be fully replicated online. To ensure respect and care for others, we will practice daily health checks prior to students moving about the campus, with the goal of ensuring that we remain on campus for learning.

[Click here to read more about daily practices that have been created to protect our school community.](#)

Extra time has been built into the academic schedule to allow for daily health assessments. Each morning, your child (and his or her teachers) will have his or her temperature checked via a touchless thermometer, as well as be asked to answer a few questions to assess risk to the greater community. Any student with a fever, evidence or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or contact with a family member with symptoms, will be asked to report to the Health Center immediately for additional assessment and/or isolation. Per Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order 38: Persons with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms are required to stay at home, and employers may not require or allow employees with COVID-19 to work.

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In the absence of fever, evidence or symptoms, your child will be permitted to move about campus and encouraged to wear a mask when appropriate to protect others.

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The availability of our school nurses and counselors will be increased this fall as a precaution and support for the school community.

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All classrooms and offices will be well-stocked with proper hygiene essentials, as per recommended by the CDC Guidelines.

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All drink fountains on campus are touchless and will be sanitized multiple times daily.

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Additional sections of classes have been created to allow for smaller classes with consistent socially distanced student experiences.

Academics and Arts

Webb's focus in the classroom for academics and arts will be based on two, main modes of teaching and learning, and they will be delivered simultaneously:

In-person, small-class teaching and learning, similar to what our students and parents have experienced in the past.

Distance Learning-virtual, online teaching and learning -- much more comprehensive than what was delivered in the spring of this year.

Our in-person teaching and learning will be informed by the protocols of social distancing that our Governor's Office requires and some recommendations of federal, national, state, and local organizations. Toward that end, we have hired additional staff to ensure that every in-person class is small enough to allow social distancing. Embedded in our in-person academic and arts classes will be the protocols enumerated in the Health & Safety section of Safe Start 2020: Webb's Reopening Plan.

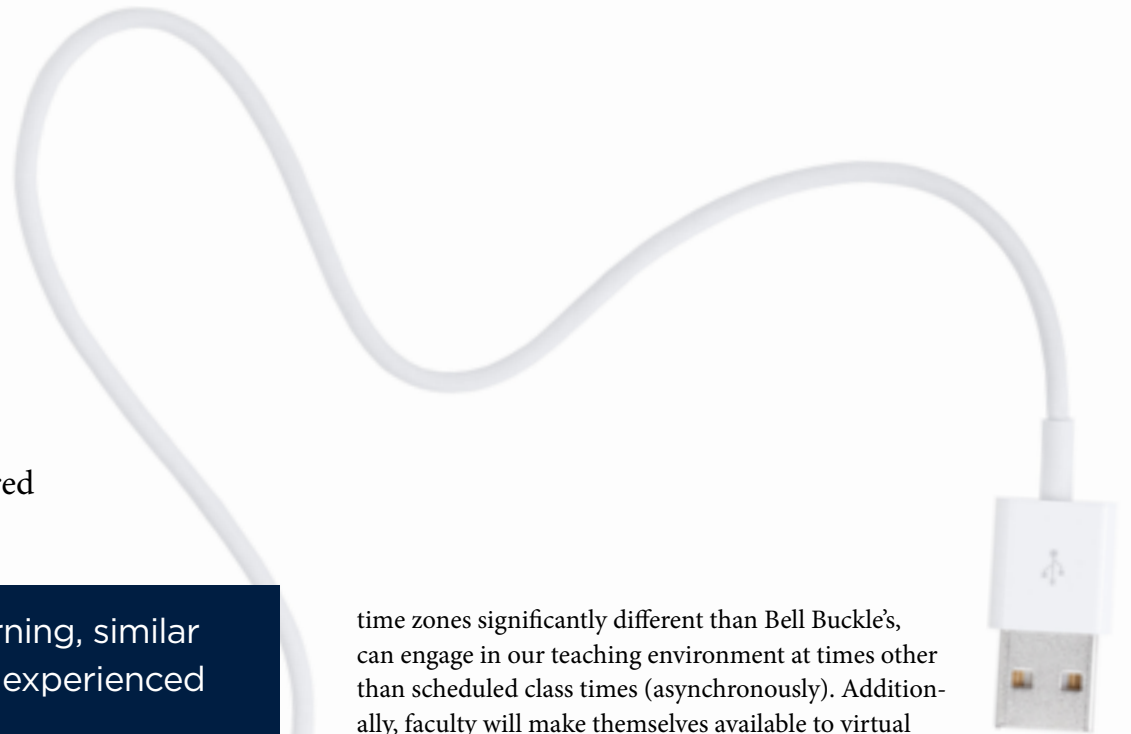
Our distance-learning program will be closely aligned to our in-person program. At least one section of every class we offer will be live-streamed (synchronous) so those who can only join us at home can join their classes in real time. Additionally, our live-streamed classes will be recorded so those at home, particularly those in

time zones significantly different than Bell Buckle's, can engage in our teaching environment at times other than scheduled class times (asynchronously). Additionally, faculty will make themselves available to virtual learners via Zoom.

In addition, the daily schedule will be adjusted to a block schedule to maximize class time and to minimize student movement on campus. Webb has utilized a hybrid block schedule for the last few years -- sometimes meeting every day, sometimes meeting every other day. A detailed schedule will follow in the coming weeks.

The COVID-19 experience spring taught us a lot about distance learning. We learned quickly what worked well and what needed to be changed. We take that knowledge with us into the summer as we prepare for the fall semester. Building on that knowledge, this summer faculty will be introduced to a new Learning Management System (LMS) that will be the central and consistent platform for all classes to use. We are investing significant resources of time and money in providing training for all faculty to lead this dual platform in powerful and effective ways.

[Click here for an outline of your exceptional faculty's summer work.](#)



Athletics

It is such a blessing to hear the sounds of our students, your children, on campus again! Some athletic pre-season workouts and athletic summer camps have safely begun, consistent with state and local guidelines. For practice and interscholastic competition, we will be closely following protocols from the Tennessee Association of Athletics (TS-SAA) and the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). For the number of fans who can attend our games and the protocols at large gatherings, we will follow directions from the Tennessee Governor's Office. We, along with all associations and the Governor's Office, are constantly looking at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations as well.

In addition to our usual daily routine procedures, the Athletic Department at Webb has implemented COVID-19 infection prevention measures to promote the health and safety of our student athletes and coaches. Your child's safety is our first concern, and the Athletic Department staff will continue to make sure all local, state, and national protocols are followed as they continue to develop.

[Click here to read more about Athletic Department protocols.](#)



Community Events

Webb encourages full participation inside and outside the classroom. Through social activities and gatherings, there are numerous opportunities for students to gain a sense of community and belonging. In addition, the importance of learning how to work effectively with others dates to the original mission and is part of the "Webb Difference." Webb has already begun planning its communal activities and events this fall so that they are safe and enjoyable for everyone. As we begin the year, we humbly ask for your patience and for your attention to the particular protocols for each event. While we ARE opening safely, there will be many adjustments to the way we organize our community events. Many of those will be changes from what our students, parents, and faculty are accustomed to doing.

Please look at each community event as a "new" event with which you have to familiarize yourself.

For example, standing before the Webb community and delivering a prepared declamation, oration, or presentation is one of the rites of passage at the school. To accommodate large groups, the "Emerging Voices" program is adjusting the timing and venues for these public performances. Relatedly, we will have to adjust the way we conduct chapel, offering a live stream available in smaller settings throughout campus several days a week and meeting occasionally as a larger group in Barton Athletic Center so we can distance students better. Another Webb difference, the WILD (Wilderness Instruction and Leadership Development) program, trains students to develop leadership skills through outdoor activities. WILD will be continuing its work of providing students with opportunities to grow while enjoying the beauty of the outdoors.

[Click here to read more about community events](#)

A top-down view of a white desk setup. In the top left is a white cup of black coffee on a matching saucer. Below it are white over-ear headphones. To the right of the headphones is a white smartphone with a black screen. A silver paperclip is positioned between the phone and the headphones. In the bottom left corner, two black pens are resting on a white notebook with a red cover.

Residential Life

Mr. Bloom, Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, is in weekly contact with The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) (<http://www.boardingschools.com>). We are one of 300 member boarding schools, all of which are collaborating to find the best and safest protocols to reopen our dorms and provide the fullest experience possible. Additionally, Mr. Bloom is in close weekly contact with several Southeast and Tennessee boarding schools to share ideas and challenge each other to serve our boarding students and parents effectively. Additionally, we look to a few college and university associations for guidance.

Residential protocols and new policies are focused on the following areas:

- Appropriate social distancing in different times of day and different venues
- Room configurations that allow for more space
- Daily and thorough room inspections
- Separate quarantine areas, separated by gender, for those who have symptoms
- Additional and more robust custodial common area cleanings
- Smaller group dorm family gatherings, much like our academic and arts classrooms
- Rigorous orientation of new protocols for all boarding students and staff
- Use of the combination of COVID-19 testing and/or quarantine as boarders return to campus
- Touchless, laser thermometers for nightly temperature checks
- Extended dinner hours to increase accessibility and social distancing in the dining hall

[Click here to read more about residential protocols](#)

Finances

This section is still under development by our new Associate Head for Finance and Operations, Mr. Jim Callis, who joined us on June 1st, and our new head of school, Mr. Ken Cheeseman, who will be on campus July 1st. As they work cooperatively with the finance committee of our board of trustees, you may expect helpful information to be posted in this section in the coming weeks.

We know that finances involve important considerations and decisions for every family here at Webb. Thank you for your ongoing communication and feedback as we develop information to give you insights into the finances for next year.