



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR CHANGES

JULY 30, 2020

There have been a lot of changes. What's going on?

- Scholarship For Kids & Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund have both cut their funding in half due to the effects COVID-19 has had on their annual revenue streams.
- As a result of the 50% scholarship cuts, we have fewer students who can afford tuition, and thus, fewer teachers and staff members. However, these difficult changes were made in order to preserve Ephesus Academy for generations to come. **Our school will be more financially solvent because of the changes being implemented.**

What about COVID-19? How is the school going to operate in the middle of a pandemic?

- Ephesus Academy will educate students **virtually** for the first quarter.
- Ephesus Academy strives to meet the needs of all learners by providing individualized online learning and daily live instruction as well as tutoring embedded within the school day and after school hours.
- For more information on our extensive reopening action plan, visit our website at www.ephesusacademy.org/covid-19.

Who is teaching my child next year?

- Though we have fewer teachers, the quality of instruction will not wane. Ephesus Academy will still provide a quality Christian education from our highly qualified and certified educators to Kindergarten through 12th grade students.
- Elementary and middle grades will learn in multi-grade bands. High school courses will be taught using a similar AB schedule as in years past.
- The following lists the teaching staff and their responsibilities:
 - Mrs. Stevenson: K-2nd multi-grade
 - Mrs. Doerner: 3rd-4th multi-grade
 - Ms. Joseph: Middle/High Bible and Social Studies
 - Mrs. Warren-Williams: Middle/High Science & PE
 - Mrs. Ortega: High School English & Griggs Facilitator
 - Mrs. Dowe: Assistant Principal & Middle/High Math
 - Mrs. Hampton Gibbs: Principal & Middle School English Language Arts



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What steps will Ephesus Academy take to prepare the building for students' return?

- Though virtual learning will take place during the first quarter, our school building will continue to be modified and undergo additional maintenance in order to prepare for student re-entry.
- Changes include, but are not limited to the following: professionally sanitizing the entire building, placing appropriate social distancing signage throughout the building, organizing classrooms to be conducive to social distancing, etc.
- The conference superintendent as well as our EA Reopening Task Force have outlined specific measures that must be in place in order to return. These measures coincide with local, state, and national health guidelines and recommendations.

Will Ephesus still participate in the Child Nutrition Program? What will that look like?

- We are preparing to offer food for students to take home--even during the virtual learning.
- Pre-packaged meals will be available for pick up twice a week. However, participation in this meal program will not deny parents' access to other local meal services or state programs.

What will virtual learning look like? How will it be different from last year?

- Just like before, elementary and middle grades will have a home learning schedule organized by grade that will let students and parents know when they can access the live teaching sessions. High school students' home learning plan will be organized by the AB schedule.
- A new feature will be offered called the Virtual Homework Hotline. Students and parents will be able to login to a Zoom conference call and get individualized homework assistance.
- Each student will be given a home learning kit filled with notebooks, paper, pencils, etc.
- Enrolled students will have access to device check-out (Chromebook, tablet, or laptop) as long as the appropriate documentation is completed.
- The Title I and III guidelines have changed. Now, students must be residents of Birmingham to use BCS devices or Title I benefits. However, we are seeking other federal funding sources to offer the same resources and services to non-BCS students.
- Live sessions will be taught daily with additional time given for elementary students to participate in direct instruction from their teachers.
- Teachers will still be available throughout the day for one-on-one support specifically during office hours.
- Educating children is not limited to a brick and mortar building. Rigorous, engaging instruction will still take place *virtually*.