

Dear Purpose School Families,

My goal is that we are able to open on September 8, 2020. To achieve this goal, we must first make changes to our operating procedures to make our school community safer for all.

These changes are being made to provide a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff. I feel strongly that by implementing these changes, we should be able to remain open and have minimal health problems. Although my management of our health and safety may seem militant, the education and nurturing of our students will always be our highest priority.

Below is our “rough” plan for reopening. This plan is based on State of Massachusetts regulations, ideas from other preschool directors in Massachusetts, and procedures put in place by schools in other states that have already reopened. Once the State of Massachusetts and the Stoneham Board of Health releases their final guidelines, I will inform you ASAP. If we successfully start with these changes and Covid-19 continues to remain under control, we might be able to add our 1 to 2 pm session to certain classrooms.

**For Parents:**

In order to keep the most control over the classroom environment, no adults/parents will be let into the school while children are in session. We will have parents drop off at the door to the staff. This really helps us cut down on number of adults in the building. As always, feel free to call the office after 15 minutes to check in if you had a difficult drop off. We will continue to post Facebook (A private/closed site) pictures of each day for parents to see their children in action!

When you drop off, you will be asked “is your child able to attend today?” YES means: your child is 24 hours fever free, there is no one else sick in your home, and you are available to pick up your child if they suddenly become ill.

Please send in both a labeled water bottle and snack each day. Please remember that we are nut free and the snack should be a small amount of something that is easy to eat and healthy.

You will label your child’s backpack, snack bag, water bottle, and lunch bag. Disposable brown paper bags should be used and changed daily for snack and lunch.

If your child is scheduled to stay until 1:00 pm, please send in a ready to eat lunch. This must also be nut free! We will use your child’s water bottle for snack and lunch. We will refill these if required. We can provide suggestions if you have a picky eater.

Parent/teacher communication will be done through email and phone meetings until we feel it is safe to allow all parents back into the building on a daily basis. We are hoping that we might just need the first month or two under these new guidelines, but I am putting student and teacher safety first.

We will start the school year with only two sessions available to students. This helps ensure that every student remains with just their classroom during the school day while inside the building. This means no mixed age groups/classrooms can be allowed. Your child can attend 8:30 to 12 or 8:30 to 1 (and have lunch and extended activities staying in their own classroom). We are making these plans now while health and safety are still uncertain. We will follow this schedule for the first month and then reassess if we can add the 1 to 2 pm session for classrooms that have an interest in the PM session.

### For the children

They will be warmly greeted at the door by Mrs. Kilty who will take their temperature. If their temperature is normal, they will be brought upstairs to wash their hands and hang up their coats and backpacks. We have always had the highest standards of handwashing; this will be the first of many times during the day that handwashing will occur. The child's temperatures may also be rechecked during the day if it appears they are feeling unwell. A fever over 100 degrees will require that student to remain at home for 48 hours. If other Covid -19 symptoms are present along with the fever, the child will need to remain at home until 48 hours fever free and present a doctor's letter before returning to school.

Children of this age will never be able to perfectly social distance from each other or their teachers. We instead will improve and control those things that we can change to make the environment as safe as possible.

Your child will be loved and nurtured by all staff, this means hugs and sitting on laps if upset or needing extra love at any point. We will encourage as many self-help skills as the student age allows.

They will be taught to cough into their elbow and blow their own nose, handwashing after both.

They will have an assigned seat that they will use for activities, snack and lunch for each day.

The learning centers will continue to have a controlled number of students using them at one time.

The room, toys and tables will continue to be re-cleaned throughout the day.

We will have each classroom use the playground and fellowship hall daily for gross motor activities. We will get outside every day for fresh air and movement. Make sure a seasonal coat comes into school daily. After being outside or in the hall downstairs children will again wash their hands before entering the classroom.

I know that parents and staff will want to follow all of "Our New Guidelines" because we all want to be back at school. I would rather start back with strict rules and be able to stay in school than start without them and need to close. We will also come up with a plan for remote learning in case we need to close for deeper cleaning, or due to new State mandates at any point during the school year.

Please reach out to me with any questions.

I am truly proud to lead Purpose School back to school this fall! Together we can make sure your children are learning, playing and staying healthy!

Kristie Colwell