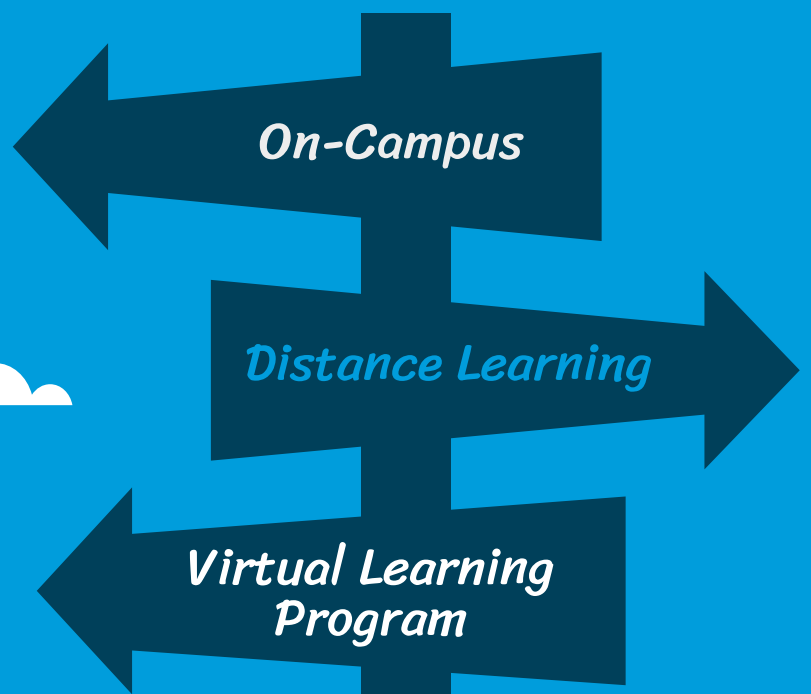


# BACK *TO* SCHOOL:

*An Overview of Our Plan for the Fall*



Columbia Academy  
Creative Teaching. Meaningful Learning.

**Back-to-school planning is no small task even during a typical summer. If you're among the countless parents feeling overwhelmed for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, we understand there are many questions you need answered now.**



- **Will schools open as scheduled this fall?**

- **Is it safe for my child to come back to campus yet?**

- **Is online learning an option? Can our family balance that?**

- **Will students have to wear masks at school?**

- **With social distancing measures in place, will my child miss out on extracurricular activities and other important opportunities?**

These are just a few of the concerns on parents' minds. While the COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation, no family should have to sit and wonder what school life will look like for their children. Our back-to-school guide was created to relieve the burden of the unknown and to help your family become as prepared as possible for the fall.

Columbia Academy has been working tirelessly to create strategies for keeping students safe while maintaining a highly relational environment. On the pages ahead, you can read about our educational format options, what the learning environment will look like, how campus life might change, and ways you can get acquainted with our school from the safety of your home.

We hope you'll find comfort in our firm plan that considers students' health and wellbeing, but also ensures they get to experience the joys of education and community.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions. We look forward to meeting your family!

Sincerely,



*Sherry Mobley*

**Sherry Mobley**

Enrollment Specialist

(410) 312-5233

[smobley@columbiaacademy.com](mailto:smobley@columbiaacademy.com)



# On-Campus Learning



Our plan is that students will come to campus each day for meaningful learning experiences, enriching community, and exciting activities. On-campus learning will look similar to what students are used to, with minor changes to help minimize the spread of illness.



*What will look the same?*



## Engaging Classes

Small class sizes that are designed to maximize individual attention and student engagement.



## Extended Care

Before and after-school care available to all students, in compliance with CDC recommendations.



*What might look different?*

- *Adjusted drop off and pick up procedures*
- *Modified food service*
- *Extracurricular activities and athletics are on hold for the time being until we can proceed safely*



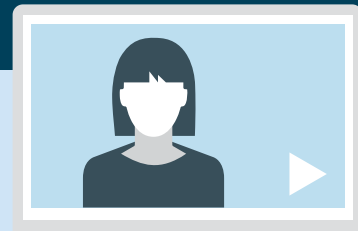
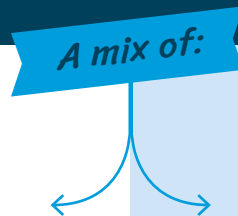
# Distance Learning

If needed due to closure ordered by the state governor, distance learning will allow students to complete their coursework from home and receive instruction in a virtual format. Students will continue to be supported by teachers, and where possible, we will provide opportunities for students to collaborate with peers.



## **Synchronous** *(Live Instruction)*

Students tune in for lessons from their teachers, meet in small groups for more individualized instruction, and interact with peers in a virtual classroom environment at times that mirror their in-person experience at the school.



## **Asynchronous** *(Instruction Accessible Anytime)*

Students access pre-recorded lessons to assist with their assignments.



## **Priorities for Distance Learning**

Academic Excellence | Individualized Attention  
Strong Community | Student Engagement | Curiosity & Discovery



## **What technology will be used/required?**

- Technology will be used to enhance student learning, increase engagement, and allow for teachers to continue daily instruction. Platforms we will use include Zoom, Google Classroom, Flipgrid, and any others teachers deem necessary to fully engage the students.
- Technological solutions will vary by grade level to ensure that they are developmentally appropriate.
- Teachers will share their individual distance learning plans with families, should we need to move in that direction, during the first weeks of school.

\*Our hope is to remain in format 1 throughout the entire school year; however, should further school closures be mandated by the government, we are equipped to build upon the success of our distance learning model from last school year, and move seamlessly to format 2.



# Virtual Learning Program



**We know not everyone is ready to send their child back to school, but they still want to be a part of the Columbia Academy family.**

For these families, we are offering an online option that is designed to allow families to work from home while students receive online instruction from educators who understand our mission, philosophy, and approach to learning. This program will cultivate e-learners and provide them opportunities to engage,

communicate, and collaborate virtually with their peers on projects, lessons, and activities. Another facet of the program that makes it unique is the fact that it will give us the ability to connect our entire school community virtually for school-wide traditions and events that are important to our students and their families.



*What technology will be used/required?*

- Technology will be used to enhance student learning, increase engagement, and allow for teachers to continue daily instruction. Platforms we will use include Zoom, Google Classroom, Flipgrid, and any others teachers deem necessary to fully engage the students.
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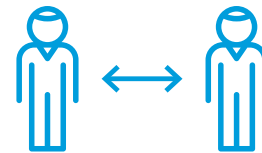
# A Safe Environment

*What we're doing to keep everyone on campus healthy.*



## CAPPING CLASS SIZES

As always, we are committed to keeping class sizes small and monitoring state and local guidelines for group sizes so that we can adjust accordingly as needed.



## PROVIDING DISTANCE

We're rethinking how we use our common spaces to ensure students can avoid crowded spaces. When possible, specials classes will be moved outdoors to allow for fresh air and social distancing.



## ENHANCING SANITATION

Our entire school will be cleaned nightly and high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day. Playground equipment will be disinfected between each group.



## ENCOURAGING HYGIENE

Hand sanitizing stations are available at every entry point. Anyone coming onto campus is required to sanitize his or her hands. Touchless paper towel dispensers have been installed in restrooms.



## LIMITING TRANSITIONS

Classes will stay together this year and will not switch to other rooms throughout the day. Students will eat lunch with their classmates in their classrooms to minimize exposure risk.

# LIFE ON CAMPUS

*Planning for a Full Academic Year*

**FIRST**

**DAY OF SCHOOL**

August 31, 2020

*anticipated*  
**LAST**

**DAY OF SCHOOL\***

June 4, 2021



## Who decides if further closures are necessary?

Columbia Academy is following guidelines set forth by the Maryland State Department of Health regarding physical distancing, crowd size, and cleaning protocols. Our school's Leadership Team is prepared to make informed decisions to protect the health of everyone on campus and equipped to communicate with parents and families throughout the year.

## Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

- Anyone who enters our building will have their temperature taken with a touchless scanner.
- Students, faculty, and staff will respond to a series of COVID-19 related questions daily to monitor symptoms.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available at every entrance and all individuals are required to sanitize upon arrival.
- All families and visitors who come to campus are required to use hand sanitizer, wear a face mask, and have their temperature checked. Families and visitors will not be allowed to go beyond our front lobby and must practice physical distancing while in that space.
- All families must use the car line for pick-up at the end of the academic day. We will not be offering in-school pick-up at the end of the day. If a child stays for aftercare, the family will need to follow the procedures above, come into the school, and wait for their child to be brought to the front lobby for dismissal. We do not offer a car line pick-up option for aftercare.
- If a student or staff member has known exposure to COVID-19, we will follow the guidance of our local health department and ensure they have the resources they need to work from home for a time.

\*Additional weeks may be added to the school year if disruptions occur. Scheduled staff development days and non-academic days may also be converted to regular school days if necessary.

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# STUDENT LIFE



## ***Creating Safe Spaces for Students to Dine***

- We are asking that students bring their own lunches and snacks from home this year.
- Students will eat inside their classrooms where physical distancing can be maintained.



## ***Activities & Specials***

- Students will continue to enjoy a variety of exciting activities and special classes such as art, music, P.E., Spanish, and media enrichment/library. For the time being, the instructors for these classes will come to each classroom to deliver lessons.
- Athletics are on hold for the time being but we look forward to offering team sports as soon as we can safely do so.



## ***Field Trips***

Field trips are an exciting component of the Columbia Academy experience. We look forward to offering a variety of virtual excursions until it is safe for us to travel with our students off campus again.



# THE 4 STEPS OF OUR VIRTUAL ADMISSIONS PROCESS

*Ready to learn how you can join the Columbia Academy School?*



## STEP 1

*Download Our Brochure*

[Download Brochure](#)

## STEP 2

*Attend a Virtual or On-Campus Tour*

[Take a Virtual Tour](#)

[Request a Private On-Campus Tour](#)



## STEP 3

*Submit an Application*

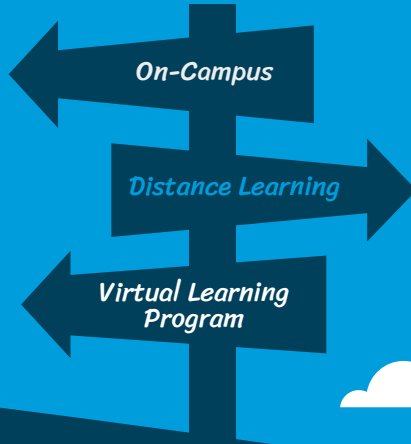
[Apply Online](#)



## STEP 4

*Finalize Enrollment*

*We will contact you with an admissions decision and help you complete the steps to enrollment!*



# Questions?

Contact our Admissions team for more information:

**Sherry Mobley**

Enrollment Specialist


**410-312-5233**

[smobley@columbiaacademy.com](mailto:smobley@columbiaacademy.com)

## **KINDERGARTEN, ELEMENTARY, AND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

 10350 Old Columbia Road  
Columbia, MD 21046


 Mon-Fri: 6:30a - 6:30p

 **410.312.7413**

## **PRESCHOOL AT THUNDER HILL**

 9210 Route 108  
Columbia, MD 21045


 Mon-Fri: 6:30a - 6:30p

 **410.992.0484**

## **PRESCHOOL AT KENDALL RIDGE**

 6000 University Blvd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043


 Mon-Fri: 6:30a - 6:30p

 **410.203.9608**


## **PRESCHOOL AT KINGS CONTRIVANCE**


 10380 Old Columbia Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21046

 Mon-Fri: 6:30a - 6:30p

 **410.312.9790**

## **PRESCHOOL AT MAPLE LAWN**

 7425 Maple Lawn Blvd.  
Fulton, MD 20759

 Mon-Fri: 6:30a - 6:30p

 **301.604.1940**



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[www.columbiaacademy.com](http://www.columbiaacademy.com)