

Parnassus Preparatory School

# Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

Supplement to ESSER III Application

Created June 2021

*Last Updated August 19, 2021*

Prior to the enactment of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Parnassus Preparatory School developed its *Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year*, in accordance with guidelines provided by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. The Safe Learning Plan met the statutory requirements of Section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP. As a condition of accepting the ESSER III award (FIN160 & FIN161), Parnassus Preparatory School must develop, with community input, a *Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan* and post it for public comment within 30 days of receiving the ESSER III award (no later than June 21, 2021).

This *Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan* must address the following:

- I. Health and Safety Strategies
- II. Continuity of Services
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Periodic Review Process
- V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Parnassus Preparatory School began the process for returning to in-person learning beginning in January of 2021. This plan will address actions that were taken in the 2020-2021 school year as well as those that will be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. The plan will be regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

## I. Health and Safety Strategies

Parnassus Preparatory School will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and staff in each of the following health and safety areas:

### Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

In the 2020-2021 school year, the Parnassus Board of Directors enacted *School Policy 808: Face Covering Policy*, which mandated the use of face coverings while on school grounds. This policy has been repealed effective June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

As of August 2021, the school is currently *strongly* recommending the use of face coverings indoors for all people in the school building, regardless of vaccination status.

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).

During the 2020-2021 school year, Parnassus Preparatory School followed all requirements related to social distancing, and updated the *Safe Learning Plan* regularly as new guidance was provided by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. In the 2020-2021 school year,

efforts were made to keep students within designated cohorts to limit interpersonal interactions and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For the 2021-2022 school year, no current plans are in place to require physical distancing between students, nor does the school plan to use pods or cohorts. This section will be updated if the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education provide guidance that requires physical distancing for students.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

In the 2020-2021 school year, as part of Parnassus Preparatory School's *Safe Learning Plan*, staff and students received instruction in handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Signage throughout the school building also promoted these best practices.

As part of the school's general health and safety practices, Parnassus Preparatory School will continue to train staff and students in handwashing and respiratory etiquette, following best practices recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health.

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

As outlined in the *Safe Learning Plan*, the 2020-2021 school year Parnassus Preparatory School observed strict cleaning and sanitation procedures following the most up-to-date guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Parnassus will continue to observe rigorous cleaning and sanitation practices, following the most up-to-date guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations for schools and childcare programs.

As of August 2021, the school has invested in HEPA air purifiers for all classrooms, offices, and common spaces. This will supplement the school's high-quality ventilation system.

### **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.**

In the 2020-2021 school year, Parnassus Preparatory School followed the contact tracing and quarantine requirements laid out for schools by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. The school's COVID-19 coordinator liaised with a regional support team and the state agencies to monitor cases and identify close contacts of individuals with confirmed positive cases of COVID-19.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Parnassus' COVID-19 coordinator will continue to work with state agencies and, if applicable, a regional support team to follow requirements regarding contact tracing and quarantine of individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As of August 2021, Parnassus will continue to contact trace individuals who are identified as close contacts of someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. Information about mandatory quarantine periods and testing will be provided to families.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing.**

When Parnassus Preparatory School students and staff began the return to in-person learning in the spring of 2021, the school, as required by the state, conducted bi-weekly COVID-19 saliva tests for all staff members. Staff members were encouraged, but not required, to participate in these

screenings. In the final quarter of the year, at-home saliva test kits were made available to students in the upper levels of the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Parnassus will observe and comply with testing requirements that are mandated by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education.

As of August 2021, the school is currently waiting on more information on testing opportunities and available funding for schools to provide testing to students, staff, and families.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) have announced COVID-19 testing resources that will be available for schools this year. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/testing.html>

Testing is one important strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19. Based on current levels of community spread across Minnesota, the CDC and MDH recommend that all **unvaccinated** school-age children and school staff should get tested for COVID-19 at least weekly throughout the school year.

**Unvaccinated** children involved in any extracurricular activities or sports should be tested more frequently.

**Vaccinated** students and school staff should get tested if they are experiencing symptoms or were exposed to someone who has COVID-19. We will continue to share updates as plans come together over the next few weeks.

### **Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

As the COVID-19 vaccine became available to adults, and, later, to students aged 12 and older, Parnassus Preparatory School's COVID-19 coordinator worked with school administrators to provide information about vaccinations to the school community.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the school will continue to follow the guidance from state agencies and provide the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 vaccinations to the school community.

### **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

As outlined in the school's *Safe Learning Plan*, in the 2021-2022 school year, appropriate accommodations were made for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

In the 2021-2022 school year, special education case managers will continue to work with school administration and the school's COVID-19 coordinator to determine what accommodations are necessary and appropriate for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

### **Coordination with State and local health officials.**

In the 2020-2021 school year, the school had a designated COVID-19 coordinator who liaised with State and local health officials and agencies.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Parnassus Preparatory School will continue to have a designated COVID-19 coordinator who will work with State and local health officials to ensure that the school is following the most-up-to-date requirements and guidelines.

## **II. Continuity of Services**

Parnassus Preparatory School has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including, but not limited to, services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social and mental well being of students and staff members.

Parnassus Preparatory School began bringing students back to in-person learning as part of a phased approach beginning in January of 2021. By April of 2021, students at all levels had the opportunity to return to in person learning for at least four days per week.

At the time of this writing, Parnassus Preparatory School anticipates that full-time in-person learning will be available to all students at all levels in the 2021-2022 school year.

## **III. Public Comment**

Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement. Along with this plan, a public comment form will be posted on the school's website allowing the general public to give feedback on the plan. This feedback will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the school administration and COVID-19 coordinator.

## **IV. Periodic Review Process**

Parnassus will review, and, as appropriate, revise this *Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan* at least once every six months through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.

This plan will be reviewed at the start of each academic quarter. Public comment will be assessed and taken into account during each review period.

## **V. Understandable and Uniform Format**

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format. Upon request, this plan is available to families via written or oral translation in a language that they can understand. Upon request by a family member who is an individual with a disability, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that individual.