

## **K-2 Covid-19 Safety Protocol**

### **PPE**

- Teachers will wear masks at all times inside the classroom (other than eating/drinking). Teachers will not be required to wear masks outside unless distancing is not possible, such as when assisting a student through an injury or a learning experience in which closeness is necessary.
- Students will be required to wear masks inside at all times (other than eating/drinking). Students will not be required to wear masks outside.
- Students should arrive at school wearing a mask and bring two extra masks in their backpacks. We will conduct a routine mask change after lunch, and students should have an additional mask on hand in the event the one they are wearing gets dirty or contaminated.
- Note: Masks may NOT have a vent valve as this contributes to the spread of droplets.

### **Distancing**

- We will follow the current CDC social distancing guidelines as much as physically possible.
- Distancing procedures and techniques will be explained, modeled, and practiced in the first weeks of school. We will provide friendly visuals and reminders when possible.

### **Cleaning**

- We will routinely clean/sanitize the classroom every 30 minutes. We will attempt to work this into our natural transitions through the day to minimize disruption to learning time.
- Cleaning includes:
  - Spray and wipe down tables, chairs, shelves/counters.
  - Spray and wipe doors, door knobs, walls where students routinely sit/stand.
  - Sanitize bathrooms, sinks, and drinking fountain. Fountain may be used to fill water bottles but students will not drink directly out of the fountain.
  - Disinfect materials/areas of the room that are unavoidably shared

### **Hygiene**

- Students and staff will wash hands routinely through the day. We will utilize natural transitions in our day as an opportunity to wash hands to minimize disruptions to learning time. (i.e. transitioning from circle time to handwork or as each student completes an activity before moving on to another)
- Handwashing will occur:
  - Upon entering the building
  - Before/after eating
  - Before/after refilling water bottles
  - After using the restroom
  - After sneezing/coughing, touching face

- Before/after changing masks
- Students are allowed to bring their own hand sanitizer to use, BUT handwashing will be the priority.
- Students are welcome to bring their own tissues to use.

### **Drop-Off Procedures**

- Parents will drop off students at the gate to our playground. To minimize risk of exposure, no adults will be allowed past the gate other than PELA staff.
- Please respect others by wearing a mask and socially distancing at drop-off.
- Sign-in will be conducted through the Brightwheel App.
- Please screen your child and family members before arriving at school. Students will not be allowed to attend school if ANY respiratory symptoms are present (covid or otherwise).
- Please note that the CDC has designated a temperature of 100.4 or above as a symptom of illness.
- The designated drop-off time is 8:00am-8:30am. Your child may not attend school that day if not present before the cut-off time. This is to help reduce disruptions to the students' learning experiences once the school day begins.

### **Pick-up Procedures**

- Students will be picked up at the school yard gate and signed out via Brightwheel
- Please notify us when you arrive and a teacher will accompany your child outside for pick-up.
- We ask that pick-up happens on time to allow teachers to properly clean the building and sanitize all materials before going home.
- Early pick-ups are allowed; please call ahead.
- Students leaving early for an appointment must be out the remainder of the day, unless prior arrangements have been made.

### **Student Belongings**

- Students are welcome to bring a backpack, lunch box, and two filled water bottles.
- Students will have a designated area in the classroom for their belongings.
- Student belongings must go home each day.

### **Moving through Our Day / Transitions**

- Lining Up
  - We may or may not use traditional line for transitioning in and out of the classroom. Priority will be given to distancing and safely wearing/removing masks for transitions.
- Snack and Lunch
  - All snacks and lunches should be provided from home.
  - Please send one morning snack and one afternoon snack.

- Please be sure to send all appropriate utensils, precut food items, and keep food insulated with ice or thermos as needed. (\*Tip: Practice opening containers with your child so they will feel more independent while at school.)
- We will not store student food in the refrigerator or warm food in the microwave.
- Meals will be eaten outside as much as possible - with consideration to weather conditions and spacing. We have two large picnic tables to enjoy! We can also space students through the play yard for picnic snacks and lunches.
- Please send two filled water bottles. We will assist students with refilling water bottles at the drinking fountain. The drinking fountain will ONLY be used for refilling and will be wiped down after use.

### **Materials Use/Learning Experience**

- PLAY is and always be the heart of our learning experiences!
- Circle Time
  - Circle sets the tone for our day and we will start each day in a positive, fun way!
  - Circle will still be our time for connecting as a class in the morning, reading the morning greeting, singing songs, and introducing new ideas for the day.
  - Children will have designated spot to sit during circle time to help them visualize the boundaries of their personal space.
- Center Materials
  - Centers provide hands-on, play-based application of learning concepts. This will not change!
  - Thematic centers and materials that cannot be individualized will be cleaned between each use.
  - Student interaction is important for the learning process! We will mindfully create activities for students to engage in together while also maintaining physical space.
- Outside Learning / Recess
  - Weather permitting, we will utilize our playground as much as possible!
  - Lessons and learning activities may be conducted outside to allow students more freedom to move around.
  - Distancing will be encouraged during recess as much as possible. We will provide children with ideas for playground games/activities that can be done without sharing personal space (i.e. scavenger hunts, loose parts play, building, relay races, obstacle courses, outside art projects)

### **Additional PELA Policies:**

#### **If Someone Gets Sick**

- If a student or teacher exhibits any sign of illness during the school day, we will require that individual to go home. All students and staff must be symptom-free, unmedicated, for a period of 24 hours before returning to school.

- Students who are symptomatic will be provided with a comfortable area to rest while waiting for pick-up. For the safety of all students, symptomatic children will not have any contact with other students while they wait to go home.

### **In Case of Covid Exposure/Positive Test**

- If a student or teacher is directly exposed to someone with Covid-19, we will require that individual to quarantine before returning to school.
- If a student or teacher tests positive, the classroom will initially be closed for up to five days. The Alachua County Health Department would immediately be contacted. They will work with us during this initial closure to determine next steps. If it is determined that we need to remain closed for an extended period of time, we would move to online instruction until cleared to reopen.

### **The Importance of Distancing Outside of School**

For the safety of all PELA students, families, and staff, we want to emphasize the importance of practicing social distancing outside of school. Due to research that indicates asymptomatic individuals can be vectors for Covid-19, we ask that you minimize interactions with others and use recommended safety precautions when outside of school and home. Please keep in mind that our ability to enjoy a safe and uninterrupted learning experience in the K-2 classroom is contingent upon our collective willingness to navigate this pandemic wisely.

### **Travel and Vacation**

We understand that certain types of travel may be necessary or valuable to your family for a number of reasons. We ask that you discern your student's travel experiences with consideration of our safety guidelines as a school. A day trip to the beach has a very different exposure risk than traveling by plane or participating in activities with high concentrations of people. Per state/local guidelines, your trip may require a quarantine upon returning home.

**\*\*\*Please discuss any travel plans with Bonnie before leaving to clarify safety considerations and potential absences.\*\*\***

### **Considerations for absences due to covid-19 infection, exposure, or travel quarantine**

Students are allowed to miss six school days per semester for a total of twelve days per year without a note from a physician. If there is an issue due to COVID-19 infection or exposure, the student will be required to have a note from a physician to excuse the absence. Days missed due to quarantine after vacation will not be excused.

**By signing this contract, you agree to follow all K-2 Covid-19 safety protocol. You also acknowledge that we are experiencing a Covid-19 pandemic and will not hold Persimmon Early Learning Academy or its staff liable for any Covid-19 illness or loss. Please let us know if you have any questions.**

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Parent Signature

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Date