WE ARE CREW,
WE ROW
TOGETHER

Parent Handbook
Dear Entheos families,

As a nation, we are now entering our 3rd school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The situation, and the direction from the state and federal government as well as the health departments is ever changing as they respond to the evolving disease, vaccination development, and new medical learning. As a school, we strive to stay on top of the guidance and mandates, as well as the wishes of our stakeholders. We have continued to seek and collect your input so we can serve you well and provide the best possible education to your children during these challenging times. We understand that educating children during a pandemic is serious, however it has also brought out our strength as a school community. We are incredibly proud and grateful to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as we move into a new school year!

Entheos Academy: We are Crew- We Row Together is Entheos Academy’s plan to mitigate the educational consequences of COVID-19 is modeled on the Utah State Board of Education’s reopening guidelines and requirements. Every Entheos stakeholder including school board members, administration, educators, parents, and students play a role in this response; we row together! This plan requires the Crew of Entheos to continue to demonstrate our 3 pillars:

1. **Service:** We serve each other through being patient, kind, and taking measures to keep our crew members safe! We reach outside of ourselves to look at our school community, neighbors, and wider community for opportunities to make things better.

2. **Excellence:** We individually and collectively strive to learn, problem solve, and adapt to ensure an excellent education for our Entheos students, no matter the challenges.

3. **Leadership:** We each demonstrate that we have the power to make a difference within the Entheos Crew and in the wider community during these difficult times. We step forward and lead when needs present themselves.

The information that follows will provide you details regarding our current response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please recognise that we will update this handbook as necessary if the situation changes. Please read it thoroughly and know that we are making every effort to keep your children safe while providing the best possible educational experience.

Thank you for your support,

*Esther Blackwell*

Executive Director
COVID-19 Guidance and Law from the Utah Government

Entheos Academy follows laws regarding COVID-19 that are enacted by the Government of Utah. We also do our best to follow the provided guidelines. For specific details, you can read more, here:

https://coronavirus.utah.gov/education/

Parent Communication

During the pandemic, having quick and effective communication with our families is critical. We will continue to use the BLOOMZ communication tool. By signing up for BLOOMZ, which is paid for by the school, you will be able to receive texts, emails, auto-calls, and communicate back to the school or your child’s teachers. This allows for effective communication of things like assignment due dates, how to get help from a teacher when you have questions, daily schedules etc., and emergency notifications regarding COVID-19. If you are not signed up for BLOOMZ, please contact your child’s Crew teacher or the front office.

In addition to using the BLOOMZ app, we will continue to post information on Facebook, the school website, send information via traditional email and in hard-copy form, and make personal phone calls whenever necessary. Please make sure that your phone information and emergency contact information stays current throughout the year. If you ever need to make updates, contact the front office.

Stay Home When Sick

It is extremely important that you do symptom checks each morning before bringing your child to school. Think of it as an additional part of your morning routine, like brushing teeth. As part of this routine, you will need to check your child’s temperature. If you do not have the means to secure a thermometer, please contact the school so we can assist you. When you do your morning symptom check, here are the symptoms you should watch for:
If your child is feeling unwell, they need to stay home except to get medical care. If your child has any of these symptoms, they may not physically return to school unless their symptoms are not due to a communicable disease as confirmed by a medical provider (such as a note confirming symptoms are due to allergies), or they are no longer sick/contagious as confirmed by a medical provider (such as a negative COVID-19 test result). This is even the case if your child has had their COVID-19 vaccination, as break-through cases are possible.

It is highly encouraged that if you or your child are symptomatic, that you get a COVID-19 test. Please notify the school immediately if your child has a COVID-19 positive test, or is presumed positive.

Absences
The school will be lenient with absence policies this year. If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the front office to notify them of the situation.

High Risk Individuals

According to the CDC, children who may be considered at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include those who have the following conditions:

- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant
- Obesity
- Serious heart conditions
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Children who are medically complex, who have a neurologic, genetic, metabolic condition

For more information regarding individuals at high risk, please see the following link:
If you or your child are at high risk or serious illness from COVID-19, please consider the following section regarding accommodations.

**Accommodating Individual Circumstances for Students and Families**

**Healthcare Plans, IEP’s, and 504’s**
If your child is medically documented to be high risk and will be attending Entheos this year, it is extremely important that we have a current healthcare plan in place. If your child currently has a healthcare plan on record at Entheos, make sure you have shared any updates from your medical provider. If your child is medically documented to be high risk and does not have a healthcare plan at Entheos, please reach out to the School Director so that we can help you get one in place immediately.

If your child has an IEP or 504 and you have questions about COVID-19 in relation to these needs, please contact their Special Education teacher, or our 504 Coordinator; mat.edvik@entheosacademy.org.

**Students Temporarily at Home Due to Sickness or Quarantine**
Students who are temporarily at home due to COVID-19, should also continue to learn at home by following a daily schedule of fixed, live, and asynchronous learning provided by the school. If you are unsure what school work your child should be doing while at home sick or in quarantine, please contact your child’s teacher or the front office.

We also have an Entheos Family Liaison who is here specifically to support you and your child during quarantine or home learning! She can help with technology issues, school work, communicating with the school, putting you in touch with community resources etc. She can be reached at:

ashton.powers@entheosacademy.org

**Hygiene and Safety**

**Cleaning and Sanitizing the Building**
Entheos will continue to implement a rigorous cleaning routine that will include frequent sanitizing of high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, sinks, toilets, and desks. All unavoidably
shared supplies such as computers, sporting equipment etc., will be sanitized regularly. If we have had a sick individual or positive case of COVID-19 at school, we will immediately clean all impacted areas of the school.

**Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing**

Students will be taught proper hand-washing techniques, including lathering hands with soap, scrubbing between fingers, washing the backside of each hand, scrubbing each wrist, washing underneath fingernails and rinsing with water. The process should take 20 seconds. Please practice and reinforce handwashing with your children at home.

All individuals on campus will be expected to employ frequent use of handwashing/hand sanitizer throughout the day. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be readily available to staff, students, and visitors in controlled environments to ensure safe use.

**Water Bottles**

This year we will continue to have students use water bottles and our water bottle filling stations, instead of drinking fountains. This reduces the spread of germs and possible contamination. Please send your child to school with a reusable water bottle each day.

**Air Purifiers**

Every classroom at Entheos has been provided with a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration system to enhance air cleaning. These air purifiers have been scientifically proven effective at cleaning air within spaces to reduce the concentration of airborne particulates, including SARS-CoV-2 viral particles.

**Vaccinations**

We strongly encourage all eligible individuals to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. To find out more about the vaccine, please visit the Utah Coronavirus page here:

**Face Masks**

During the pandemic, face masks are an important part of respiratory hygiene and have been proven to reduce the risk of spread. In accordance with science and guidance from the state and federal governments, as well as the health department and the CDC, we **strongly encourage all students, employees and visitors to wear masks on campus**, whether or not they are vaccinated. We are starting the year with all our students below the age of 12, unvaccinated. Science also shows that the Delta variant is far more contagious than the original strain, and can still infect those who are vaccinated- even if these individuals may become less sick than if they were unvaccinated. If you do not have a face mask, we can provide one for you or your child.

Face masks can be any pattern and design, as long as they don’t have any inappropriate words or images. Let your children see face masks as something fun instead of scary.

Remember, face masks should be washed frequently!

Please also understand that as COVID-19 evolves and mututates, it may be possible that it becomes necessary to reinstate a mask mandate to protect people’s safety. We will notify everyone if that happens.

**School Fieldwork/Busses**

Because Entheos Academy contracts with private bus services to take our students on fieldwork, we have to abide by mask requirements and safety protocols that the private bus company determines. The bus companies that we contract with, require all riders to wear masks at this time. Therefore, if your child is going on fieldwork, they will be **required** to wear a mask on the contracted bus. If you are volunteering to chaperone fieldwork, you will also be required to wear a mask on the bus. Please contact the front office if you have questions or concerns regarding this requirement and wish to make other arrangements.

**Physical Distancing**

**Breakfast and Lunch Service**

This year, breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria under most circumstances.
However, if there has been COVID-19 exposure in a class, that class will eat breakfast and lunch in their classroom, supervised by the para/teacher until 10 days has passed from the time of exposure. This will reduce possible additional exposure that could occur among unmasked students during meal time.

**School Schedules**

We are beginning the year on a regular Monday-Friday, in-person schedule. We are not holding an optional, parallel Distance Learning program for Entheos families. Due to the state and health department’s newest direction, if we have COVID-19 exposure in school, exposed individuals will still be able to be on campus but will need to wear masks. This will mean that we will not have classes at home quarantining, and we should be able to have the whole school remain on our regular schedule through this year, with only individuals who are actually sick with COVID-19, needing to stay home.

However, it is possible that the school could have a major outbreak of COVID-19. This would still trigger a Test to Stay protocol and could possibly result in a school closing and move to virtual learning for all until the outbreak has passed.

If the physical school building needs to be closed due to a significant COVID-19 outbreak, we will move the school to a full, Distance Learning model until we receive permission from the health department to re-open our doors.

**Carpool**

Entheos will implement an end of day dismissal process with staggered release times. Walking students will be released first at 3:15 p.m. and will be required to immediately leave campus unless participating in an after school program. Following this, only students whose ride has arrived will be allowed out of the classroom to immediately go to their ride. We ask that parents stay in their cars during drop off and pick up, and call the office if they need assistance.

**What Happens if There is a COVID-19 Outbreak at School?**

**Health Rooms**

If a child becomes sick while at school, they will be placed in the Health Room where they can wait separately until they are able to go home. The room will immediately be sanitized after use to prevent possible spread.

**Contact Tracing and Notification**
If an individual in the school community is diagnosed with COVID-19, the school will immediately begin work with the health department to conduct contact tracing. The identity of the individual who has tested COVID-19 positive will be protected as much as possible and all privacy laws will be observed. If your child has been directly exposed, you will be notified as soon as possible.

**COVID-19 Exposure Response**

If you are notified by the school that your child has been directly exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, your child will need to either:

1. Wear a mask to school for the next 10 days while they are under the period of time in which they may become symptomatic. They may take a COVID test on day 7, which if this returns negative results, they may be permitted to unmask (although we strongly recommend that all individuals wear masks on campus anyway).
2. Begin a 10 day quarantine at home if they do not want to wear a mask at school. During their quarantine they will participate in learning at home using a suggested daily schedule.

If your child has been directly exposed to COVID-19 outside of school, please call the office to inform them of the situation. You will need to pick one of the above options for your child for the next 10 days.

**Test to Stay**

If there is a significant outbreak of COVID-19 at our school (30 or more students testing positive), we will work with the health department to implement a whole-school “Test to Stay” process, where employees and students will be tested for COVID-19 and if cleared, may remain at school. If an individual tests positive, they will begin their 10 day home isolation.

**Temporarily Reclosing**

If the pandemic increases in such severity or spread that the health department and state determine there needs to be school closures, we will immediately notify employees and families, initiate our plans for Distance Learning, trigger our distribution process for supplies needed for Distance Learning, and provide information on continued breakfast and lunch programs.

**Special Programs at Entheos**

We believe that our Discovery Program, and Service Learning Program, our Adventure Program, and our 4 H Afterschool Programs are a critical part of the educational experience that we provide. During the 2021-22 school year, we will strive to fully implement these programs. We are beginning the year with the full programs, not modified or reduced in response to
COVID. However, we maintain the prerogative to alter this course if necessary, to protect the safety of those in our care. If we have to modify our plans, we will let parents know.

**Academic Supports in Response to COVID-19**

National, state, and school data is indicating as predicted, that COVID-19 is negatively impacting the academic growth of our students. To mitigate the impact, Entheos has worked extremely hard to direct funding and energy towards programs that support learning during these difficult times. Some of the programs are ones that Entheos initiated last year and will continue, while others are new! They include:

**After School, In-Person Tutoring**

All Entheos students are eligible for free, after school, in-person tutoring. This tutoring is targeted- meaning if your child is struggling, average, or gifted, it will be designed to meet them on their personal level and help them continue to move forward academically. To get more information about this program or to sign up your child, please contact:

deb.ivie@entheosacademy.org

**Summer School**

During this past summer, we were able to serve approximately 340 students in grades K-8 through our Summer School program! Students received intensive Math and English Language Arts support, as well as participated in amazing, cross-content project based learning! Social-emotional needs were also addressed, and students fed for free. We will be offering Summer School once again in 2022. Watch for details as the year progresses.

**Parent Instructional Videos for Teaching Literacy Skills at Home**

Entheos teachers have created videos that you can watch online, that teach you how to help your child learn literacy skills at home, and can also help you prep them to successfully show their skills on state reading assessments! A link will be provided soon, where you can access these videos!

**Targeted Take-Home Literacy Packets**
If you would like an individualized packet of literacy resources sent home so you can help your child learn to read, please let us know. These literacy packets are individually crafted and compiled, based on your child’s personal reading data!

**More Bilingual Staff and Support**

Entheos has strategically and deliberately hired more bilingual staff, so that we can serve our multi-language families and students more effectively. If you need a translator, or you have questions regarding our multi-language services at Entheos please contact:

Natalie.langarica@entheosacademy.org (Kearns Campus)

Ashley.castro@entheosacademy.org (Magna Campus)

**Online Tutoring and Homework Support- Coming Soon!**

Due to the overwhelming need for tutoring and extra academic support among our students, we are going to separate our in-person tutoring options from our online support. We will use our Entheos educators to provide in-person tutoring, and enlist the help of an experienced and evidenced-based company to help us provide online tutoring and homework support. This way we can reach more students without burning out our teachers and paras. We are currently evaluating vendors and hope to have more news for parents soon!

**Additional Social-Emotional Support in Response to COVID-19**

We recently applied for and received a grant to hire a School Social Worker to support the social-emotional needs of our students! We know that these needs have increased due to the pandemic, and agree with our parents that this kind of support is a critical need. This year our School Social Worker will be doing the following:

- Teaching classes to students in grades 6-8 on coping strategies for mental health issues.
- Creating a pathway for parents or students to seek assistance during school hours.
- Providing consultations for students, parents, and administrators during the school day if a critical, student mental health need arises.
All individual student mental health services will be provided in consultation and with permission of parents.

**Entheos Board of Directors**

Rod Eichelberger  
Deb Ivie  
Adriane Olsen  
Xazmin Prows  
Karen Bogenschutz  
Joel Coleman

**Entheos Administration**

Executive Director: Esther Blackwell  
Kearns Campus Director: Nyman Brooks  
Magna Campus Director: Jason Bennion

**Updates to this plan will be available at:**  
Enthesosacademy.org