Dear Beta Family,

We are eagerly anticipating an exciting new school year at Beta Academy and are committed to the safety of our scholars, teachers, and parents during this reopening. This handbook communicates the Beta Academy Health + Safety Plan which has been developed based on the guidelines from the Texas Education Agency, as well as local, state, and federal authorities. Beta remains in constant contact with officials and is committed to providing our families with the most up to date information during this time.

This handbook will provide guidelines on health practices, school day operations, and instructional guidelines at Beta Academy. Focus is being placed on health and hygiene practices, cleaning, and ongoing training for best health practices for our scholars and staff.

Finally, please know your scholar will get through this unprecedented season. Tough times produce resilient people and the Beta staff stands ready and willing to serve, teach, cheer, and champion every single Beta scholar this year!

Thank you,

Latisha Andrews, Founder, CEO & Superintendent
Beta Academy continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and receives regular guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath and other local, state and federal agencies regarding response, prevention and mitigation efforts. This direction will continue to evolve based on COVID-19 conditions across the state and our local community. We will educate our students, staff, and community members about the importance of frequent hand washing; covering a cough or sneeze; not touching one’s eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home when sick; and other measures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Hand sanitizer will be available at every building entrance and in every classroom. Beta Academy Custodial Services will continue to routinely clean and disinfect all facilities, including cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces with approved germicidal agents which are effective against multiple disease-causing viruses and bacteria.

**COVID-19 Daily Recommended Self-Screening**

All scholars, staff, and parents will be responsible to self-screen daily prior to entering Beta facilities. Parents/Guardians can help by keeping children home who are sick. If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, the child cannot return to school until at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.).

**Social Distancing**

Students and staff will be asked to maintain a distance of 3-6 feet when feasible.

**Face Coverings**

Face coverings will not be required and will be optional for staff and scholars.

**Temperature Checks**

Daily temperature checks of all students at school will not be performed; however, each campus has been provided no-touch infrared thermometers for screening symptomatic students and staff.

**Certified Nursing Assistant**

There is one Certified Nursing Assistant assigned to monitor Beta Academy campuses.

**Response to COVID-19 Cases**

Beta Academy staff will initiate the campus Isolation Plan in the event of a suspected COVID-19 case on campus. (see pg.14) In working with district and current health recommendation from TEA and CDC, a course of action will be determined regarding necessary communication, required sanitation, possible closures and contact tracing. Upon notification of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case on a campus, the district will communicate with teachers, staff, and families of students who were exposed.
SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS
Campus Cleaning

- Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning between transition of students.
- Additional cleaning will occur at each campus in the evenings.
- UV lights are used for classrooms overnight that potentially have a high exposure.

Meal Service

- Free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students this year.
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing practices will be used before entering the serving line.
- Cafeteria and serving areas will be cleaned as students transition.
- When reporting to the cafeteria for lunch, students will be released on a staggered schedule.
- Campuses will use a variety of options for seating arrangements to maximize social distancing.
Beta Academy 2021-2022 Calendar
The district plans to utilize the Board approved 2021-2022 calendar; however, depending on the circumstances, the district is prepared to modify and extend the calendar. Communication through our email and text message system will be provided if a calendar change is needed.

Outdoor play and learning will be encouraged.

Visitors/Deliveries/Miscellaneous
- To limit exposure, informal campus visits will be restricted (including during meal time).
- Essential meetings will be by appointment or a virtual format.
- All approved visitors must self-screen prior to entry.
- To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside deliveries for students will be accepted (i.e. food, gifts, food delivery services, etc.).

Extracurricular/Non-Academic Activities
- Athletics, Fine Arts and other extra curricular activities will be conducted following school COVID-19 guidelines at the time of the activity.
- Outdoor gatherings must be in compliance with current state social distancing guidelines.
- Any student social activities (i.e. dances, celebrations) must be conducted in compliance with current state social distancing guidelines at the time of the event.
- Hand washing and/or hand sanitation stations must be available for any activity.
Beta will be offering only in-person classes for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Grading**
Grading policies will be the same as previous years and are available in the Parent-Scholar Handbook posted online.

**Special Programs**
Students in specialized programs, including but not limited to: special education, 504, Dyslexia, ELL, CTE, and Dual Credit will receive information related to their program once individualized plans are finalized. Individual education plans, accommodations, and modifications will be followed. Progress will be carefully monitored and the ARD Committee may re-convene to make appropriate recommendations to meet individual student needs to ensure continued growth in the general education curriculum and on IEP goals and objectives.

**FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION**

There is always a possibility that situations will arise that necessitate temporary school closure(s) due to COVID-19 cases. If this should occur, teachers will use Zoom and Google Classroom while we are virtual. These have been used with success in prior years, and teachers will be familiar with them in the event we have to quickly switch to a virtual setting. Beta Academy will be prepared to pivot to at-home learning, while actively working to prevent the spread through mitigation practices. We will work with students and parents to help ensure the learning continues in the event this occurs.
VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Virtual instruction will not be offered unless mandated by the Governor, TEA, and/or state and local health authorities.

If virtual mandates occur, we will move to an asynchronous instruction mode. This format does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time; however, the student is required to be engaged in learning each day. The teacher will provide lessons and give students daily feedback. Schools will establish structured, instructional schedules for students to follow.

Virtual instruction will align to the level of rigor students will experience in the face-to-face environment and will have additional expectations than what was experienced in the spring when all students were learning in a virtual setting.
- PK-4th grade students must have a parent or an adult present who can facilitate learning each day.
- Students must be engaged daily and must participate in all required course work and virtual lessons to be counted present each day.
- All assignments will be required to be turned in on the due date to receive full credit.
- The student will be required to participate in all tutoring sessions and/or video conferencing required by the teachers.
- For activities (including performance-based assignments and benchmarks) which must occur on campus, parents will be responsible for scheduling on-site visits.
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
TEA provides guidance for all school districts within Texas that is routinely updated based on the latest information released from the CDC in addition to guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott and other local, state, and federal agencies. The information we receive is ever changing as we learn more about COVID-19; therefore, to receive the most accurate and timely information, we are providing a direct link to the COVID-19 page on the TEA website.


Once on the page, there will be a box with the most up-to-date information listed as depicted in the screenshot below. As new information arises, the PDF is replaced with an updated version and date stamped.

Most Popular Guidance and Resources

- SY 20-21 Public Health Guidance (PDF) January 7, 2022 [Public Health Orders card]
Student Isolation Plan

- Symptomatic students will be required to apply a face covering and report to the designated isolation area for further evaluation.

- The ill student will remain isolated with assigned designated staff member to be monitored until parent/guardian arrives for student pick up.

- Monitoring staff member must perform hand hygiene and wear PPE for the duration of the isolation period.

- Campus administrators will immediately notify both District & School Operations departments and will follow their guidance.

- After students and staff are removed from the isolation area, it will be sanitized using approved germicidal agents by Beta Academy custodial staff wearing appropriate PPE.