



IHSNO School Family,

IHSNO intends for each student to receive a high quality, international based education. We exist to ensure students have the tools needed to be critical thinkers, positively impact their communities, and global citizens. We provide students with social and emotional support, nutritious meals, safety, and opportunities to connect with teachers who care. We are cognizant and always fortunate to know the value of our educators and the roles they have in the development and guidance of our students. Our educators are critical to the role of building and sustaining the well-being the community.

During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to quickly pivot from in-person instruction to distance learning for all IHSNO students. During this time, we connected 100% of our students, provided daily instruction, distributed laptops, and MiFi's to students. Teachers were trained using Google Classroom, Google Meets, and other online curricula to meet the needs of our students and professionals. We learned from this experience that more is needed to properly care for our students.

Learning from the COVID-19 impact allowed us to reassess our methods of instruction, learning, teaching, and remediation. The IHSNO's Strong Start plan was developed with the guidance of the Louisiana Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Louisiana Department of Health. We used various surveys with input from families, students, teachers, and community members. These surveys enlightened our path and informed our planning.

During our planning, several items were held in high regard:

- A. Each student must have access to technology and daily instruction to be successful
- B. Keeping all members of the IHSNO safe while learning and teaching occurs
- C. Flexibility to move to virtual learning without missing instructional time
- D. Provide students, families, and teachers with training on using tools available
- E. Have a clear communication plan

The path forward looks different than in years past. We are confident that the work that is being done, preparing for the next school will present challenges and opportunities for continuous growth. Continuous growth of students, teachers, parents, and administrators. During challenging times, we must remain flexible, meeting the needs of all students and teachers, and creating a safe and nurturing environment.

IHSNO is committed to ensuring the academic success of all students, using the International Baccalaureate program as foundation for teaching and instruction. Providing all students access to the IB program requires unwavering focus on teaching and learning, effective leadership,



collaboration with stakeholders, and care for all involved. Working together we will build a creative and innovative education, providing our students their passports to success. We appreciate the trust you place in us as we engage in building the lives and potential of all students.

Sincerely,  
Sean Wilson, Head of School

## Safety First

As with any situation, the health and safety of staff, students, and families are crucial to learning. Health and safety protocol are being refined and we are following the recommendations of health officials regarding opening school this fall. Our state's public officials have established phases to reopening and we will adhere to those guidelines, and at times, we may institute stricter guidelines than those recommended by health officials. Stricter guidelines will be implemented based on the severity or prevalence of disease spread at the school. We will loosen restrictions based on health official guidance.

The IHSNO Start Strong Plan follows Louisiana's phases. During Phase 1, IHSNO will only provide virtual learning for all students. During Phases 2 and 3, IHSNO would provide Blended Learning and virtual learning. In all phases, families will have the option of distance learning.

The [Louisiana Department of Education](#) provides guidance for school reopening. We will follow the safety and health standards for reopening. Additionally, we may go beyond the state requirements to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students, employees, and our community. This is what we are doing to do to maintain a safe and healthy environment next year.

## Conduct Daily Temperature checks for everyone

All employees, students, and visitors must have a daily initial temperature checks upon arrival to the building

## Require face coverings for everyone

- Employees, students, and visitors must wear a face covering
- Face coverings must be worn in all areas of the school, including:
  - Transitions
  - Buses
  - Classrooms
  - Hallways
  - Common areas
  - Restrooms

727 Carondelet Street | New Orleans, LA 70130 | 504-613-5703 office | 504-566-1142 fax  
[www.ihsnola.org](http://www.ihsnola.org)



- Arrival
- Dismissal
- Individuals with health concerns and other conditions will be considered on an individual basis.

### Maintain social distancing

Social distance will be maintained to the extent possible in all parts of the building.

### Personal Hygiene

- All school stakeholders will be required to wash or sanitize hands upon arrival and at least every two hours. Students will be required to wash or sanitize hands before and after meals and after using common supplies, and before exiting school
- In some instances, hand sanitizer will be used in place of handwashing.

### Clean and Disinfect More

- The school will be cleaned and disinfected more often
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day using commercially available, EPA-approved cleaning solutions.
- Employees will be provided adequate access to hygienic supplies.
- We will encourage students to minimize the sharing of materials.
- Athletic equipment will be cleaned more often.
- Students and staff will be asked to limit personal items taken to and from school.

### Group Sizes: Louisiana Department of Health Guidelines

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>Maximum group size</b>	10, including adults	25, including adults	50, including adults
<b>Younger students</b>	Maintain static groups, understanding individuals may come into close contact and may not be wearing face coverings		
<b>Older students</b>	If students are able to maintain physical distance, the group's composition may change. Students maintain physical distance of 6-feet in classroom/indoor settings to the maximum extent possible.		

### Monitoring for COVID-19 Symptoms

- Students and employees who are sick should stay home.



- Every student, employee, and visitor will have a temperature check up arrival to the school.
- The school has an isolation area for those exhibiting signs of illness.
- Parents will be required to pick-up students if the students exhibit a temperature of 100.4F and above.
- Students in the isolation will be monitored.
- The isolation room will be cleaned and disinfected after it has been occupied.

### Restrict Visitors

- The school will restrict non-essential visitors, including volunteer groups.
- Essential visitors will be allowed to visit according to Louisiana Law or policy. Essential visitors are individuals who:
  - Conduct class observations
  - Observe teacher candidates
  - Provide essential supports and services, including intervention services, special education services, or mental health consultation.
- All visitors must wear a face covering, complete the COVID-19 Risk Assessment Survey, and sanitize their hands upon arrival.

### Plan for Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- It is expected that members in our community will contract COVID-19
- Students, families, and employees should notify the school or their immediate supervisor if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Anyone who have COVID-19 should stay home and remain isolated until they have recovered and are determined no longer to be infectious by their doctor.
- We will communicate with employees and parents of students who were in close contact with the affected COVID-19 individual.
- We will ensure continuity of education for students who are quarantined.
- Periodic closure of school may be necessary based on COVID-19 cluster at the school.

### Other Safety Measures

- We will display COVID-19 informational signs in conspicuous spaces.
- We will insure proper ventilation in all spaces.
- We will ensure water fountains are safe for use. We are asking students to bring their own water bottles.
- We will require all employees to participate in health and safety training periodically throughout the year.



## INSTRUCTION

Teaching and learning tops the list for our students. As we continue planning for next year, we have three models of instruction that will be considered:

- A. In-person - traditional model of instruction with students on campus every day
- B. Blended learning – a combination of virtual and in-person
- C. Virtual – distance learning with students learning from home

This school year, we aim to minimize the spread of COVID-19, and to meet the instructional needs of our students. IHSNO is offering three models of instruction in concert with the Louisiana reopening guidelines and the adopted school calendar &&&&&&&. We understand

### Teaching and Learning

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>Virtual Learning</b>	<b>Blended or Virtual</b>	<b>Blend, Virtual, Traditional</b>
All students learn virtually at home 5-days per week	Students learn in-person 2-days a week and 3-days virtually at home. <b>OR</b> Students learn virtually at home 5-days per week.	As many students as possible learn in-person 5-days a week. <b>OR</b> Students learn virtually at home 5-days per week. <b>OR</b> Student learn 2-days on campus and 3-days virtually at home.

some families are uncomfortable with sending their children to school in person, and we are making appropriate accommodations to ensure learning is continuous. In-person learning will happen and we are ensuring the safety of all of our community members with this

format of instruction. We are providing all families options of instruction, including virtual.

### Virtual Learning

- Families choosing virtual enrollment will be in semester increments.
- The student will remain enrolled at IHSNO
- Students receiving accommodations and additional services will continue receiving those services.
- Students will remain eligible for participation in sports and extra-curricular activities.

### Communication

- Teachers will have daily contact with all students, regardless of instructional model.
- Teachers will engage students daily in instruction whether virtual, in-person, or blended.
- Communications will be either email, phone.



- Educators will provide feedback to students on work at least once per week.

### Technology

- We will meet the technology needs of students, supporting their needs.
- We will be a 1:1 device school
- Through Cox Communications, income qualified families receive discounted internet services

### Student Receiving Accommodations

- Students will continue receiving special education and related services in the least restrictive environment.
- Outside services providers will be considered critical to the academic improvement and development of students, and these services will continue.
- Students receiving accommodations and additional services will continue receiving those services.
- Student placement will continue to be made in consultation with parents, guardians, advocates, taking into consideration the student's social, emotional, and medical well-being.

### Social and Emotional Supports

- We will continue screening students and determining services required for academic success.
- We will continue providing students, teachers, and staff with access to emotional support and assistance.

## SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Ensuring a safe and nurturing environment, protecting instruction and the well being of all members, IHSNO recognizes the importance of organizing all facets of the school's operations. We have considered the importance of arrival and dismissal, facility management, and extra-curricular activities.

Based on Louisiana guidance, IHSNO will follow the guidance to ensure students are transported safely.

### Arrival and Dismissal

- All employees, students, and visitors must use the designated entrance and exit.
- We will use multiple entry and exit points in the building.



### Facility Requirements

- We will maintain static groups and physical distance to the extent possible.
- We will remove all unnecessary furniture from all classrooms to minimize the amount of objects to be cleaned.
- We will consider additional transition time between activities and classes.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing instructional items.
- All occupants will be required to undergo temperature checks.

## TRANSPORTATION

We are encouraging parents to self-transport their children to and from school. However, we know that many of our students require bus transportation. We will provide transportation and implement additional safety measures.

Transportation: Louisiana Department of Health Guidelines			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Transportation	<b>Maximum school bus capacity, including adults</b>		
	25 percent, including adults, of the bus manufacturer capacity	50 percent including adults, of the bus manufacturer capacity	75 percent including adults, of the bus manufacturer capacity
	a) School bus passengers ride one per seat with every other seat empty b) Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats, with an empty seat between household groups	A) Take the number of seats and multiply by the % of the manufacturer's capacity. This is the maximum number of people allowed on the bus at any given time. B) Space and disburse passengers to the maximum extent possible.	

- Parents must ensure students arrive at the bus stop on time and without a fever and COVID-19 symptoms.
- Student must always sanitize their hands upon boarding the bus and wear a face covering while on the bus.
- Students will maintain social distancing while on the bus. Students from the same household may sit together.
- As bus capacity is limited, it may be necessary for multiple routes for each bus.
- Windows will be lowered during transport, excluding inclement weather.
- Bus personnel will wear face coverings when transporting students.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected.



## FOOD SERVICE

IHSNO will provide food service in all phases. Food will be served with additional precautionary procedures in place.

Food Service			
Instructional Model	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>In-person</b>	-	Breakfast and Lunch	Breakfast and Lunch
<b>Blended Learning</b>	-	Breakfast and Lunch / Grab and Go Meals	Breakfast and Lunch / Grab and Go Meals
<b>Virtual</b>	Grab and Go Meals	Grab and Go Meals	Grab and Go Meals
<b>For in-person meals, students will pick-up meals in the school cafeteria or designated location. Outdoor eating will be allowed weather permitting.</b>			

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Many activities will be adjusted based on guidance of Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana High School Athletics Association.

Physical and Environmental Standards: Louisiana Department of Health Guidelines			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<b>Physical standards</b>	a) Groups convene indoors in rooms enclosed by walls or partitions, b) High touch surfaces (e.g., desks, doorknobs) are cleaned before and after each group's use, c) Groups are separated outdoors but do not require a physical barrier, d) Limit crowding at entry and exit points; maintain maximum group sizes and physical distance recommendations to the maximum extent possible.		
<b>Athletics</b>	Refrain from contact and high-risks sports		Contact/high-risk sports allowable within defined groups.
<b>Symptom monitoring</b>	a) Assess students on arrival and throughout the day, including conducting an initial temperature check, b) Establish an areas that can be used to isolate sick students c) Clean and disinfect surfaces in the isolation area after the sick students has gone home.		
<b>Environment Cleaning and Personal Hygiene</b>	a) high-touch surfaces are cleaned multiple times throughout the day, including bathrooms, b) Handwashing at arrival, at leader every two hours, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment and at exit, c) Adults and secondary students, as able, should wear face coverings to the maximum extent possible, most importantly at entry and exit, and during transitions within the school building. Individuals with severe breathing difficulties should not wear face coverings.		



### Assemblies and Field Trips

- Assemblies will be sized limited based on maximum group sizes and social distancing.
- We will discontinue all fieldtrips.

### Athletics and Physical Education

- Athletic participation will be made following Louisiana High School Athletic Association.
- PE teachers will adhere to all safety precautions
- PE equipment will be cleaned between all transitions.