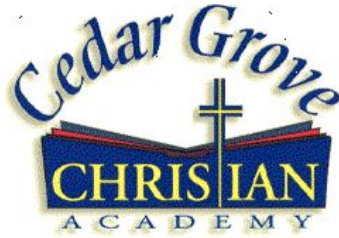


**Preschool, Lower School,
Middle School**

Website: www.cgca.org

215-725-3383



*The Mission of Cedar Grove
Academy
is to give a quality Christian
Education
emphasizing traditional
Biblical values.*



#1 9/20/20

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR! We are off to a great start this school year. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care. We take that responsibility very seriously. It was great seeing all the familiar faces again and welcoming new families. The school is a lonely quiet place over the summer, and it was thrilling to have all the families descend on the academy rekindling friendships and welcoming newcomers.

We have truly been blessed here at CGCA with many classes at or very near capacity. We praise God for His provision.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY/STAFF: We welcome the following faculty/staff and rejoice that the Lord brought them here. Joining our staff is:

Sebastian Jiwanmall – 6th grade/Spanish Teacher

Caleb Myers – Gym teacher

Julianna Thompson – Art teacher

Melody Lopez – Secretarial Staff

Faculty/staff new positions:

Wendy Brennan – 5/6 ACE teacher

Becca Brennan - Part time aide

Doing School Differently: It has been so awesome to be back in school with our children. We are glad that we can offer an online option to many of our returning students. We have been working hard all summer preparing our school for the return of our students. Our staff has also risen to the challenge of working with some of our students who are doing school online. We continue to pray for the day when we can all be present in school together again. Until then we will pray for good health for all and blessing on our ministry and our families. Some adjustments we are taking daily are listed below.

- I invite you to review all our updated policy measures, guidelines, and etiquette listed on our website under the "About CGCA" tab and the "Opening Safely this Fall" header. I suggest you start from the last item and work your way up the list since the most current information is in the last posts.

- Teachers going far above and beyond - I believe we are one of the few schools doing both online and onsite training. This is a lot to ask from our staff, but they have risen to the challenge and are doing an amazing job.
- We are having a weekly drop off and pick up process of materials and assignments for our online students after school on Fridays 3:30 - 6. (This coming week the drop off and pick up will be on Thursday since we have a half day on Friday).
- Staff are able to have online students directly involved with the class activities via unlimited online Zoom access. Students come on at 8:30am and remain on most of the day, taking off for breaks and lunch.
- Approximately 50 of our 260 students are online. Every week we have students moving from online to onsite as they get more comfortable with the onsite process.
- Computer loan program - We have loaned out approximately 30 machines. As part of the CARES program we were able to purchase 42 new Chrome books. The remaining 12 are being used by onsite students now. The Lord has blessed us in this area. God has provided many new machines in our school now and a smart TV in every room. All are connected to our new Wifi service. Our 21 access points throughout the building are all less than 2 years old.
- Ongoing expansion of RenWeb: All lesson plans, classroom Zoom links, teaching links and communication now runs through our RenWeb LMS program.
- Virtual Open House - We have put together a series of videos that interested families can view to give them a very good picture of life at CGCA.

Covid Preparations for this school year:

- Major clean out and organization of all storage areas
- Made more space in rooms by moving out nonessential furniture and spreading out desks so there is more space between desks.
- Stockpiled hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes through CARES funding
- Restructured middle school, specials classes and a few lower school classes to have teachers rotate instead of students
- Purchased 8 more hand held thermometers through CARES funding
- Purchased an infrared camera to scan for body temps more rapidly and provide for physical separation during the scan process

- Purchased 4 additional hand washing stations
- Adjusted lunch schedules and menu. All lunches are now eaten in classrooms to keep students batched and separated.
- CDC mask protocols enforced
- Batched recesses with adapted non-contact activities
- Conducted 3 separate training sessions (1 with a professional training service) to prepare staff for online/onsite classes with new cleaning protocols and procedures.
- Set up a support system for technical assistance for the online process
- Added additional cleaning routines for repeated sanitizing throughout the day. All touch points are sanitized several times each day.

Sports this Fall: We will be offering sports as permitted by the local municipality. PIAA has suggested that schools cautiously pursue outdoor sports. No clear direction has been provided for indoor sports yet.

Video of classes: We know many of you have been curious about how we have set up our rooms to accommodate for the proper spacing of students. Soon we will be posting a brief video of some of the classrooms to show how we have adjusted to meet those requirements. As soon as it is posted we will let you know.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK: The theme, Stand in the Gap with Strength and Love.

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 “13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all *that you do* be done with love.” Spiritual Emphasis week is September 28 – October 2 at all grade levels.

#1 PRIORITY ON PRAYER: To keep the emphasis on starting our school year off with an attitude of prayer, we are emphasizing prayer in a different way each day, encouraging children and our families to make prayer for our school a #1 priority. Pray daily, keep a prayer journal and pray that many will remain faithful in prayer all month. If you have missed out on this at all please click on this link to see [our list and calendar](#).

SEE YOU AT THE POLE: **Wednesday, September 23,** We will be encouraging each class to gather at the flagpole at a time convenient to them to pray for our nation. Several students and some staff will be leading us in prayer.

ABSENTEE CALLS REQUIRED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: Parents are required to call the school office (215-725-3383) by 9:00 am if your child will be absent. This will help us be more consistent with our records and help ensure the safety of our children. This applies to

students onsite or online.

CALENDAR CHANGES: Unfortunately we are needing to adjust some scheduled events. Below are all the updates. We hope to be able to reschedule some of these events for later this school year.

Postponed events:

- Race for Education - We may possibly run this fundraiser in the Spring if time and circumstances allow.
- Middle School retreat has been rescheduled for the Spring
- Sports - Indoor sports - cancelled for now. Outdoor sports continue with safety restrictions in place and number of games reduced.
- School Picnic - cancelled this year.
- MACSA teacher's conference postponed. May be rescheduled for the spring. We will still be doing a 1 day teacher inservice later that same week in October.

MORNING HOURS: Children who arrive before 7:45 am must report to the daycare until 7:45 am. Grades 1-8 will be supervised at 7:45 am in the yard. Lines enter the building at 8:05 am and school begins at 8:30 am. All children should arrive by 8:25 am at the latest. The late bell rings at 8:30 am. Preschool students are not considered late until 8:40.

LUNCH PROGRAM: Our lunch program started Wednesday, September 2nd. You may log into your RenWeb account and set up orders for your child(ren), which we will see in our system. Please order at least 24 hours in advance, but preferably over the weekend for the following week. Remember, Chrome and Safari are not working for some devices, so try downloading Firefox. If you place an order and click on "Order Items" at the bottom, we can access that information even if your payment will not process.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS: Parents are discouraged from calling their children during the school day, unless it is an emergency. Messages will be delivered to them only during lunchtime. Any messages regarding changes in transportation or daycare for the day must be called in before 2:30 pm to ensure your child gets the message. **The office is too busy after that time to deliver messages.** Children are discouraged from using the office phone. If a call is absolutely necessary, the child will have to pay 25¢ per phone call, unless they're sick or have an emergency.

DATES:

Sept	16		Wed	School Pictures
	22		Tue	Chapel see you at the pole
	25	DCO	Fri	Noon Dismissal
Sept -	28 -2		Mon-Fr	Spiritual Emphasis Week
Oct	2		Fri	Mid-quarter reports
	7		Wed	First Open House
	22		Thurs	7th grade Spaghetti Dinner (poss. Take out)
	23		Fri.i	Teacher in service day - no School grades 1-8

INSTRUMENT LESSONS Information about band instrument lessons was sent home last week for 4th through 8th graders. Lessons are available for the following instruments: **flute, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, french horn, baritone horn, tuba, and percussion**. There is no cost for lessons, other than instrument rental or purchase. If you want this opportunity for your child, please indicate that on the form. **Piano lessons** are available upon request, but are handled by visiting teachers that do this as a business and there is an hourly fee.

CELL PHONES: Students are not permitted to have cellphones in school. If, however, it is necessary for your lower school child to carry a cell phone, it must be left in the office while he/she is in the building. Parents must sign the cell phone form for their child. Middle schoolers are required to turn their phone off for the day. 5th and 6th grade students turn their phones into a homeroom teacher. 7 and 8th graders may keep their phones in their lockers and are solely responsible for the safety of that device.

DAYCARE BILLING: Just a reminder that daycare bills for grades 1-8 will be sent home the first of every month. It is not included with the tuition payment. Daycare services are available from 7 am to 7:45 am and/or from 3:15 pm to 6 pm. Flexible hours are billed at \$5.25 per hour. After 6 pm pickup is charged \$20 for each 15 minutes interval or part thereof. Please be aware that daycare workers appreciate being able to leave at or before 6 pm.

Check your email for information on setting up your account with ProCare. Once you have created a username and password, you will be able to view the activity on your account and make payments online.

BUS AND CAR TRANSPORTATION: Please call the school office (215-725-3383) before 2:30 pm if your child will not be riding the school bus on a given day. There is **no parking** permitted on Bingham St., except for school buses. **Cars should never be driven into the school yard off of Lawndale street, even during inclement weather.** Also, for the safety of our children, please **do not double park when picking up or dropping off your child.** **Parents ARE encouraged to drive into the yard off of Bingham St. and pull up to the blue gym doors to drop off children between 7:45 am and 8:45 am.** Responsible students are available from 8 – 8:45 am to assist preschool students in getting safely to their proper classroom. Thank you.

AMAZON SMILE FUNDRAISER FOR CGCA: Amazon has a program called “Amazon Smile” that donates .5% of eligible purchases to a charity of the members choosing. Simply shop on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose CGCA as the Charity. All pricing and benefits still apply.

CGCA AND UNITED WAY: I.D. #1197

You can designate your United Way contributions to be used for CGCA. Two of our programs (Discovery Center and Daycare) meet the requirements to be a part of the United Way Donor Choice Program. All you need to do is designate your United Way contribution to Cedar Grove Christian Academy and use our I.D. #1197 on the pledge form. Thank you very much.

In His Grip,
Jeffrey Howard, Principal