



August 21, 2020

Preschool & Kindergarten Families,

In a recent announcement, the Tacoma Health Department stated that all K-12 public and private schools are required to utilize Distance Learning rather than In-Person Learning as the school year begins. This has raised the question, 'Will Celebration Kidz have to go virtual?' According to the Washington State Department of Health Decision Tree for Provision of In Person Learning, younger learners can meet in person in small groups during the current level of COVID-19.

As you look at the decision tree (see link at the bottom of this page), you will see that younger learners can meet at this time. When the levels are MODERATE, elementary students may return to in-person learning. When the levels are LOW, middle school and high school students may return in a hybrid model.

We have a strong desire to continue to offer in-person classes this Fall. We will make the necessary changes in our classrooms to encourage smaller groups and make the most of learning by rotating stations throughout the day and being careful not to inner-mix classes. Each teacher will provide a variety of learning opportunities for math, phonics, Bible, arts & crafts, sensory, etc. We believe it is important for our young learners to have hands-on in-class learning. We know for many of you that it is your hope too.

We also want to clarify the question regarding masks. Are they required for students? As of right now, the answer is no. Masks have been recommended but will be at the discretion of the parents. If your child will be wearing a mask to school, please have them practice using a mask between now and then to help them be more successful. We cannot guarantee that your child will keep their mask on during the entire class time but if you want them to wear one, we will do our best to encourage it. Celebration Kidz Staff will wear a mask or a face shield as long as it is required for the health and safety of the classroom. We prefer the shields as they allow student to see our mouths for instruction and smiles for comfort.

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Please read the following information to be up to date with recent decisions. We hope this information helps bring clarity.

*Message from the Health Department:

<https://storage.snappages.site/F8GRNJ/assets/files/DrChenRequiringRemoteLearn.pdf>

*Decision Tree for K-12 Schools:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/DecisionTree-K12schools.pdf>

We appreciate our families, Church Staff and Church Board for the teamwork that it has taken this summer to work towards opening in-person.

God bless,
Celebration Kidz Team

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