



# Fall 2021 Opening Plan

August 18, 2021

# Table of Contents

<b>Letter to the Community</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Registration and Orientation</b>	<b>5</b>
Registration	5
Orientation Programming	5
Class Day	5
Academic Plan	6
<b>2021–22 Weekly Schedule</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>8</b>
Testing and Vaccination	8
Mask and Physical Distancing Protocols	8
Partner Organizations	8
COVID-19 Cases On Campus	9
Managing potential COVID-19 Symptoms	9
<b>Academic &amp; Student Life</b>	<b>10</b>
Residential Life	10
Dining	11
Hours of Operation	11
Visual and Performing Arts	12
Athletics	12
Campus Life	12
Classrooms and Other Academic Spaces	13
Student Activities	13
Transportation	13

# Letter to the Community

Dear CA Community,

As we enter into the 2021–22 academic year, we are so excited to be welcoming all of our new and returning students back to campus in late August. Below you will find compiled the information we have shared with you over the late spring and summer, as well as the most recent health and safety policies and protocols by which we will operate. As always, we will continue to consult with our school medical staff, public health advisors at Environmental Health and Engineering (EH&E), our peer schools, and the Boards of Health for the town of Concord and the state of Massachusetts.

The past eighteen months have taught us to be flexible and responsive, and we will continue to adjust as needed to evolving conditions, working to limit restrictions as much as possible, while attending to the physical, social, and emotional health and safety of our community. We are grateful that we will be operating as a vaccinated community, with our full in-person programming for day and boarding students.

Keeping COVID-19 at bay will require the continued resolve and commitment of students and adults, but we look forward to all the ways our community will be able to come together again in living and learning.

We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Warmly,

Sarah Yeh P'24  
Interim Head of School

# Important Dates

## 2021–22 Calendar

<b>August 27</b>	New student registration
<b>August 28</b>	New student orientation
<b>August 29</b>	Boarding student orientation
<b>August 30</b>	Returning student registration; Athletic preseason begins
<b>August 31</b>	Convocation; First semester classes begin
<b>September 3</b>	Class Day
<b>September 6</b>	Labor Day; school in session
<b>September 7–8</b>	Rosh Hashanah; school in session
<b>September 16</b>	Yom Kippur; no classes; houses open

# Registration and Orientation

## Registration

Registration for new students will occur on Friday, August 27, with orientation programming to follow. Returning student registration will occur on August 30.

### **New Student Registration: Friday, August 27**

- **11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m:** Boarding students
- **1:00–1:45 p.m:** Day students

### **Returning Student Registration: Monday, August 30**

- **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m:** Boarding students trying out for fall athletics
- **12:00–1:00 p.m:** Day students trying out for fall athletics
- **2:00–3:00 p.m:** Students not trying out for fall athletics

## Orientation Programming

Orientation programming for all new students will follow registration and will take place during the weekend of August 27. Our Orientation presents opportunities for new students to get to know each other, student leaders, CA adults, and the campus, and familiarizes them with key aspects of CA life to help them feel ready to begin their career as both a student and a community member. Details about orientation programming as well as [events for new and returning parents](#) can be found on the [Opening Days page](#) on the CA school website.

Our returning 10th grade students will join their new classmates for “re-orientation” activities on Class Day, September 3, which will take place during the academic day.

## Class Day

An initiative begun in 2019 finds each grade gathering as a class on the first Friday of school to connect with each other, class advisors, and other CA adults who will engage them in activities and topics most appropriate to their role at CA this year. The day will begin with chapel at 8:30 a.m., then shift into Class Day, which will end by 3:15 p.m. Below is a brief breakdown of what each grade will do:

- 9th grade: Extended orientation on campus
- 10th grade: Class-based team building on campus followed by a trip to Kimball’s for lunch, activities, and (of course) ice cream

- 11th grade: Leadership development training and team building off campus at YMCA Hopkinton
  - **Required Form: Please print, sign, and scan/take a picture of this [Appreciation of Risk Form](#) and email to Renee Coburn ([renee\\_coburn@concordacademy.org](mailto:renee_coburn@concordacademy.org)) by the first day of classes, 8/31.**
- 12th grade: College Counseling Boot Camp with mock interviews, essay development, application advice and more

## Academic Plan

Our top priority for the 2021–22 academic year is ensuring that we offer safe and robust academic, arts, residential, co-curricular, and athletic programming. Our faculty and staff will be teaching, advising, mentoring, coaching, and serving as a general adult presence on campus this year, and our students will be living and learning together on campus.

The last academic year was challenging and pushed us to make some decisions and policies we would not have normally accommodated. This year, teachers will be “striving toward a new normal” academically, and students can expect a return to a [“typical” work load](#). At the same time, we recognize there will still be impacts of COVID-19 on students’ academic experience; we have been working over the summer to appropriately recalibrate our program where needed to best support students.

## 2021–22 Weekly Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Announcements 8:30-8:45	meeting time 8:30-9:30	Chapel 8:30-8:45	meeting time 8:30-9:30	Chapel 8:30-8:45
A Block 8:50-9:30	Chapel 9:35-9:50	C Block 8:50-10:00	Chapel 9:35-9:50	D Block 8:50-10:00
B Block 9:35-10:15	A Block 9:55-11:05		B Block 9:55-11:05	C Block 10:05-11:15
Break 10:15-10:30	B Block 11:10-12:20	D Block 10:05-11:15	A Block 11:10-12:20	
C Block 10:35-11:15		Ensemble Times 11:20-12:30		Lunch 11:15-1:00
D Block 11:20-12:00	Lunch 11:15-1:00	Lunch 11:15-1:00	Lunch 11:15-1:00	
E Block 12:40-1:20	G Block 12:50-2:00	F Block 1:00-2:10	E Block 12:50-2:00	F block 1:00-2:10
F Block 1:25-2:05	E Block 2:05-3:15	Assembly/Communit y Time 2:15-3:15	G Block 2:05-3:15	Assembly/Communit y Time 2:15-3:15
Break 2:05-2:20				
G Block 2:25-3:05	Athletics 3:15 - 5:00	Athletics 3:15 - 5:00	Athletics 3:15 - 5:00	Athletics 3:15 - 5:00
Music Monday 3:30-7:00				
Athletics 3:15 - 5:00				

# Health and Safety

## Testing and Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccines will be required for all students. We will accept all CDC- and WHO-approved vaccines. Proof of vaccination must be included in health forms. International students who have not been able to get a vaccine at home will be assisted in getting it upon arrival at CA. Students completing their vaccination process will follow the following protocol:

- Arrive with a negative PCR COVID-19 test;
- Test upon arrival;
- Wear masks indoors until fully vaccinated (unless eating, showering, or in their room);
- Be part of a rapid antigen testing protocol three days a week until they are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines will be required for all CA employees. We do not anticipate conducting community-wide COVID-19 testing or requiring daily symptom checks this fall. We will continue to notify families if someone in one of their student's classrooms, boarding houses, or athletics activities has tested positive.

## Mask and Physical Distancing Protocols

In reviewing CDC, DESE, and DPH guidance, and in discussion with our local health partners, we will begin the year with masks required indoors for all members of our community as well as visitors, regardless of vaccination status. We will continue to monitor the evolving guidance around masking and transmission, and will remain flexible and responsive.

All students, faculty, and staff should bring masks to campus, and we will continue to have a supply of masks on hand.

We do not anticipate needing to observe physical distance protocols.

## Partner Organizations

Concord Academy follows guidelines from state and local officials, including the Concord Department of Public Health and our school physician Dr. Patricia Birgineau, with whom our Health Center staff is in regular contact. In addition, Concord Academy is being advised by Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc. (EH&E), a consulting firm that has developed COVID-19 response guidelines for independent schools in the Boston area.

## COVID-19 Cases On Campus

If a CA community member tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to isolate for 10 days after the onset of their symptoms or positive test. Unfortunately, CA will not be able to care for students on campus who require isolation. We will promptly notify a parent/guardian, who will need to make arrangements for their child(ren) to be safely picked up from CA within 8 hours. The student will not be allowed to return to school until they have been cleared by their physician and the CA Health Center.

In accordance with current guidance from Concord DPH, you will need to quarantine if you have been in [close contact](#) (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been [fully vaccinated](#). People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have [symptoms](#). However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

## Managing potential COVID-19 Symptoms

This year, the Health Center is changing its protocol so that **any student or adult** entering the health center needs to be masked. This is a standard procedure now in most medical spaces, and we will be instituting the practice this fall.

Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while on school property should go to the Health Center. The nurse will place the student in a private room and administer a 15-minute rapid antigen test if symptoms are not otherwise explained by the nurse's assessment (allergies etc.)

Any day student who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms before they arrive at school **should stay home**, contact their medical provider, and also **call the Health Center at (978) 402-2333 to report the illness to the CA nurse.**

# Academic & Student Life

## Residential Life

We are excited for a full return to residential life for students and campus adults in late August 2021. As noted above, Concord Academy is requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for all students and adults. Due to varying availability of vaccines, some students will arrive at different stages of vaccination, with some students receiving their first or second dose upon arrival.

In order to minimize risk of exposure and transmission, students who have not completed their vaccination process will follow the following arrival protocol:

- Arrive with a negative PCR COVID-19 test;
- Test upon arrival;
- Wear masks indoors until fully vaccinated (unless eating, showering, or in their room);
- Be part of a rapid antigen testing protocol three days a week until they are fully vaccinated.

Our residential life team has put great care into housing and roommate groupings; boarding students will learn their roommate and house when they arrive on campus for registration. We are grateful to have the risk-mitigation layers of vaccines, masking, HEPA filters, and testing described above in place as we complete the vaccination protocol for our campus community. These health and safety measures have proven to be successful, and we will continue to respond to changing conditions as they arise. We recognize that in the first few weeks of school, some roommates may be in different stages of the vaccination process; if you have concerns or reservations about your student's rooming situation during this period, please reach out to [Sally Zimmerli](#), dean of students, or [Annie Bailey](#), director of residential life.

CA's Student Life Office will continue to work with out-of-state and international students to monitor updated travel restrictions as well as embassy and visa requirements in helping them arrive safely to campus. If you are an out-of-state or international student or family and need assistance, please reach out to [Sally Zimmerli](#), dean of students, or [Annie Bailey](#), director of residential life.

For details around CA's school vacation dates and times, packing lists, and arrival and departure information for boarders, please see the [Guide to Getting Ready for CA 2021-22](#).

## Dining

As students, faculty, and staff return to campus, they are all welcome to eat in the Student Faculty Center (Stu-Fac) for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The changing needs and expectations of our students, faculty, and staff during COVID-19 times have allowed us to look at everything we do differently. Our dining hall will continue to adapt appropriately and quickly to ensure a safe and nutritious dining experience.

Students, faculty, staff, and community residents will be offered a hot and cold meal option for each meal and can eat their meals in the Stu-Fac dining hall or at outdoor seating. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will include both hot and cold options. Entrees will be served by the dining hall staff on china and silverware. Beverages and salad bar are self-service, with china and glassware.

### Hours of Operation

#### *Breakfast*

**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 7:00–8:20 a.m.** (continental & hot breakfast)

**Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00–9:20 a.m.** (continental & hot breakfast)

**Saturday–Sunday: 9:00–11:00 a.m.** (continental breakfast 11:00 a.m–1:00 p.m brunch)

#### *Lunch*

**Monday through Friday: 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

#### *Dinner*

**Monday–Friday: 5:30– 7:00 p.m.** (hot dinner)

**Saturday–Sunday: 5:30–6:30 p.m.** (hot dinner)

We will continue to follow expanded sanitation protocols, including increased sanitization between and during meals in the dining room. Our cleaning contractor, Citywide, will frequently clean and sanitize dining tables, and all other high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized daily. Prep and serving tables will be cleaned and sanitized during every meal period. All dining staff will review COVID-19 training standards, including hygiene standards.

We will continue to provide gluten-free options. “My Zone” is a gluten-free area, reserved for students with a gluten allergy or intolerance. It contains a mini-fridge filled with condiments, packaged desserts, cooked pasta, and a variety of other gluten-free options; a mini-pantry, including dry cereal and breads; and a designated microwave for students with a gluten allergy to heat dishes they create using the My Zone fridge and pantry.

In addition, both vegan and vegetarian options are offered at every meal and labeled for easy identification. We encourage all students to reach out to the dining staff with any questions or special requests.

## Visual and Performing Arts

We recognize that student and community engagement in the arts is a central component of the Concord Academy experience. We will be offering an in-person arts experience in the fall, including classes, rehearsals, performances, and presentations with full visual arts studio access on afternoons, nights, and weekends. We anticipate that we will learn more in the weeks ahead about this fall’s guidance from Massachusetts’ Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) around any indoor expectations for arts activities, and adjust accordingly.

## Athletics

The athletics program plays an important role in supporting the physical and mental health of our community. Our athletics teams are scheduled for a full fall slate of athletics practices and competitions, and the Athletics Department will continue to offer an array of P.E. and fitness classes. Member schools of the Eastern Independent League (EIL) continue to pay close attention to guidelines and best practices, with athletic directors in close communication. Concord Academy will make decisions on any COVID-19 safety protocols for interscholastic competition in consultation with our health partners and with state and with local guidelines in mind. Further information on fall sports and pre-season tryouts can be found in our [Guide to Getting Ready for CA 2021–22](#).

## Campus Life

Our campus and extended campus (the town of Concord) are currently fully accessible to students and CA adults. **All visitors to campus will be required to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.**

## Classrooms and Other Academic Spaces

In 2020, CA invested in technology that allowed classes to take place remotely and in a hybrid environment. This investment will allow us to retain the functionality of using hybrid and remote learning if necessary, but we intend to operate fully in person for the fall.

## Student Activities

Student activities are a foundational part of how we build community. Activities are arranged each weekend to bring together all of our students. Typically there will be an activity planned on Friday and Saturday each weekend for the entire student body. We will continue to communicate all major events to our students at announcements and through internal communications as well as in our weekly community newsletter. We anticipate being able to host school-wide events in person, and we will also continue to coordinate grade-specific community-building events. Activities will be coordinated through the Student Life Office in partnership with CA adults on campus, external partner organizations, and student clubs. House faculty also run smaller-scale activities throughout the weekend to promote house and community connection. All activities will follow the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidelines and practices.

## Transportation

Students will follow all safety protocols in their transportation to and from campus. The state of Massachusetts is currently requiring masks for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, commuter rail, and transportation stations). Here is the most up-to-date [Commuter Rail Schedule](#) for the Fitchburg Line.