

# VIRTUAL LEARNING SUPPORT PROPOSAL FOR IOHUMC

for the Isle of Hope and surrounding communities

## OVERVIEW

**i** Savannah/Chatham County Public School Systems as well as many private schools in the Savannah area are shifting to virtual learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

IOHUMC is committed to supporting children and families during this difficult time of continued safety measures due to the COVID-19. Working families and stay-at-home parent families are equally affected by the mandate for virtual learning.

## The Objective

**i** To improve the lives of families with children K-5<sup>th</sup> and provide support for virtual learning including providing safe spaces and socially distanced small groups in which to learn. Other support provided would be the assistance of retired teachers, recreation time, and activities based on the volunteers' areas of expertise.

- Need #1: provide space for groups of 4-10 children to learn safely and effectively.
- Need #2: provide extra support from retired teachers that would be able to assist in areas of English, science, math, social studies and other K-5<sup>th</sup> topics.
- Need #3: provide safe, socialization opportunities through recreation and other extra curriculums (i.e. science experiments, music lessons, life skills, etc.)

## The Opportunity

**i** The church steps up in the community to aid families during virtual learning times.

- Goal #1: Host safe, socially distanced learning spaces from 8:30am-2:30pm both at the church and in-home groups
- Goal #2: Provide support to parents and teachers by offering in-person learning assistance from retired teachers and other parent volunteers
- Goal #3: Allow for both educational support as well as spiritual support to families by regularly checking in with parents and children.

## The Solution

**i** Provide a system of groups of 10 children or less both on the church campus and in homes during the school week, Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30am.

- Recommendation #1: Provide online signups for parents to either place their children in the church group or in a home swap group, with various agreements in place for host homes.

- Recommendation #2: Provide individually packaged snacks, sanitation such as Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer, outside recreation and a creative opportunity for learning (i.e. STEAM activities, music, art, etc.) during virtual learning time.
- Recommendation #3: Train all volunteers in Safe Sanctuaries, CPR and other life-saving skills deemed necessary for facilitation. (see *attachment A*)

## OUR PROPOSAL

**i** IOHUMC is committed to children and families and seeks to be a place of sanctuary in the Isle of Hope community and surrounding areas. This proposal would not only assist with virtual learning from families but also draw families in to the IOHUMC community as we seek to live the call. An online system would be setup with a set registration time to allow families to reserve a spot either at the church (maximum 10 children, preference give to full-time working parents) or in a home-based group (families would partner together to host a group of 4-10 children in their home certain days during the week). Both groups would follow the same guidelines for cleaning, snacks and recreation. Retired teachers would be recruited to assist both groups on a regular basis based on need and comfort level of teacher.

Families would maintain the digital learning curriculum for their public or private school system. Technical assistance would be given to each child as well as educational assistance. A resource list would be provided for other issues to be resolved during the virtual learning time (defined as 8:30am-2:30pm). Breaks would be provided where allergy-free individually packed snacks and drinks would be distributed (see *attachment B*). Lunch would be brought from home by each student. Outdoor spaces would be encouraged for breaks, lunch time and recreation based on weather conditions. Recreation time would be provided with available materials (i.e. tag, soccer, playground, etc.). The expectations for each participating family would be to monitor their child's health as well as the family's health and report any sickness to the virtual learning facilitator. Masks would be worn by children during indoor virtual learning time as well as socially distanced spacing of learning stations. Masks may be taken off outside during recreation time and during snack and lunch times as per state guidelines. Temperature checks will be taken upon student's arrival. Children with irregular temperatures will be sent home immediately.

Any equipment needed for virtual learning such as laptops, headphones, notebooks, pencils, crayons, etc. would be provided by each family. A weekly fee of \$25/child would cover the cost of snacks, drinks, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizers and other supplies deemed necessary to maintain the safety and comfort of each child. Recreation supplies and special project supplies for crafts, STEAM projects and music will also be included in this cost.

Children are assigned to a specific group for the entire time of virtual learning. Switching between groups is not permitted due to health concerns. Groups would consist of no more than 10 children each. Once slots are full, children may be placed on a waiting list or another group may be established. Siblings will be placed together in groups.

As this is a school-based setting and not childcare, the discipline policy will reflect more of a school approach. Children not following the discipline policy on a repeated basis will be asked to leave the group. (See *attachment C*)

The school calendar used for holidays and other designated days off will be determined by each group.

### Church-Based Group

**i** A group of 10 or less children would meet in the Hope Arbor building Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm during virtual learning days.

- Regularly clean and sanitize used building space and restrooms.

- Maintain health forms for each participating child with emergency medical information and allergies. (See Attachment D)
- Provide marked learning spaces for each child with internet access, power strips, etc.
- Provide Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer as well as guidelines of designated times to use them (i.e. before and after snack, before and after outside recreation time, etc.)
- Plan in place for participating families for emergency circumstances (i.e. sick child, holidays, etc.)

## Home-Based Group

**i** *Up to Five Families would partner together to host a group of no more than 10 kids at their houses. Houses would rotate hosting during the week, ideally hosting one day a week of virtual learning.*

- Provide sanitization packs for each host family (Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer) as well as guidelines of designated times to use them (i.e. before and after snack, before and after outside recreation time, etc.)
- Maintain health forms for each participating child with emergency medical information and allergies. (See attachment D)
- Provide learning spaces for each child with internet access, power strips, etc.
- Make each parent aware of home environments (i.e. pets, other family members present, backyard equipment such as playgrounds, etc.)
- Maintain safe environment for K-5<sup>th</sup> children, both online (appropriate websites monitored) and in-person (i.e. tripping hazards, kitchen safety, backyard safety).
- Immediate reporting of sickness in child or other family members.
- Plan in place for each participating family for emergency circumstances (i.e. sick child, host family unable to host, holidays, etc.)

## Technical/Project Approach

**i** *Set-up online registration through church website using already-established children's health forms*

*Create Facebook group to provide support, publish schedules, answer questions*

*Train all volunteers on CPR (provided to staff and preschool teachers in August) and Safe Sanctuaries (background checks for those volunteers not on file)*

*Provide and establish guidelines for volunteers*

## Resources

**i** *Retired teachers and other non-working church members that would be willing to assist.*

## Timeline for Execution

**i** *SCCPSS plans to announce the school plans for virtual or in-person schooling on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration would have to be up that same day in order to align with that decision and ease the residual "parent panic" that will ensue. Private schools will most likely announce plans around this date as well. Start dates, holidays and end dates would be based on the compilation and assessment of school calendars of participating families.*

## Supplied Materials

IOHUMC Children and Family Ministries will supply the following materials for each virtual learning group (church or home-based). Cost will be covered by \$25/week fee per child.

Materials Needed	
Clorox wipes	Power Strips/Extension Cords
Hand sanitizer	Special Activity Packets (i.e. STEAM activities, crafts, etc.)
Individually packed snacks and drinks	Health forms, resource list
Child masks, adult masks	Touchless thermometers

## SICKNESS POLICY

**i** COVID-19 Policy as provided by the CDC's recent guidelines for schools.

### School Decision Tree

