

## SciCore Academy's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic and Plans for Fall 2021 School Opening

SciCore Academy has responded to the pandemic with foresight and effectiveness. During the 2020-21 academic year, parents were given the option of having their children attend either in-person or remotely. In-person classes were held at our 156 Maxwell Ave., Hightstown, location, with before-care starting at 7:45, classes from 8:30-3:00, and aftercare from 3:00-4:00 pm. Remote classes were transmitted from the in-person classrooms using Google Meet throughout the entire day (8:30 -3:00). Lectures, class discussion, and homework were conducted in a Live Online Conference environment, so that in-person and remote students could communicate with the teacher and each other, and all students received equal attention from the teacher. Hands-on classes (art, robotics, programming, labs, physical education, music) were conducted in such a way that students could either do the activity at home via school-provided kits or observe in-person students perform the activity at a conference station.

**For Fall, 2022, SciCore will offer the option of in-person or online education.** Using appropriate technology, in-person and online classes will be run simultaneously. As previously described, the environment will be interactive so that both in-person and online groups can freely communicate and benefit from lectures, Q & A sessions, and activities. Creative use of kits, individual supplies, and learning modules, sent home or given to students in class, will enable all students to receive the same rich and hands-on education provided over the years by SciCore Academy. Students will scan homework or complete fillable problem sets and submit to the teacher by uploading to Google Classroom. Tests and quizzes will be given at normal frequency; online students will take tests with their camera feed on for teacher observation. Grading will be given on a conventional 0- 100 percent scale and report cards will be issued quarterly. Semester finals for grades 5 – 12 will be conducted in-person and online.

As during the previous year, in-person classes will be conducted with utmost attention to student and staff safety. At a minimum, the following measures will be taken: daily cleaning of surfaces before student arrival; temperature checks before students and adults enter the building or bus; student assigned seating and separation; social distancing control in open areas and bathrooms; masks to be worn by staff and students; open windows and fans to maintain good air circulation (minimizing aerosol contamination); water-container refill dispensers in lieu of water fountains; hand sanitizer and sanitary wipe dispensers; non-contact physical fitness and games; online chess; modification of music activities in lieu of singing (distanced hand chimes & percussion, reading music, music appreciation); outdoor classes when feasible; individualized laboratory experiments (no partners); social distancing during aftercare and before-care; and, strict compliance to keep students home if they feel sick or have a fever. During the first week of classes, students will be instructed on how to follow these safety guidelines. As part of the student supply list we are requesting personal-sized hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes.