

Dear YIHS Community,



It is in our nature to cut to the chase. So, if you want to skip this preamble and just find out if you're going to have to wear a mask or if we're going to have Morning Circle over Zoom, please feel free to do so. However, you would be remiss to not circle back and thoroughly read about the thinking that went into these decisions, because there was a lot of it.

Patience is perhaps the most powerful of all virtues. While the cheetah may be fast, the elephant strong, and the crow cunning; the oak tree, the mountain, and the ocean are patient. No cheetah can outrun the ocean, no elephant can disturb the mountain, and no crow can outsmart the oak tree.

The first thing to remember is that this policy, like all agreements, plagues, lives, and histories, is temporary. It is called forth to confront the blink of a gnat's eye in the infinite and awesome expanse of the universe, and though it would be naïve to deny that some things may have changed forever, it would be equal folly to fallaciously assume that this is the new normal. Our values remain the same, and each one of them has informed this important decision:

Leadership

Mastery

Courage

Leadership starts with listening and ends with service. We have done our best to gather the thoughts and feelings of our community and to shape those ideas into what we feel best serves the members of our corporation and our local, state, national, and global communities

Though no one on earth can yet claim mastery over the evershifting social and biological realities of this virus, countless hours of accumulated research and discussion informed the tenets of this policy. Given our station, we feel confident that these decisions are as informed as they can be.

We suspect that there will be members of our community who will be deeply disappointed with this policy in its totality and that probably no one will agree with every aspect of it. Yet, the way must be forward, and though we empathize with the conflicting fears and anxieties this virus has brought forth, we make these decisions with confidence and resolve.

Creativity

Magnanimity

Dedication

An unprecedented situation calls for nothing if not creativity. We proudly admit that since the first days of March, we have been and continue to be making it up as we go along. If there is a recipe for this, no one has notified us. Improvisation must be supple and unafraid of failure, ready to identify mistakes and evolve accordingly. If this policy doesn't work when put to practice, we'll paint over it and start again.

We cannot allow our values, our mission, our spirits to be overshadowed by our fears. We must be bigger than our circumstances, bigger than our egos, bigger than our immediate desires. We make these decisions having humbly pursued a perspective that transcends this place and this moment.

In this time of crisis and uncertainty, we rededicate ourselves to each other, and to a vision of the individual who finds their highest expression in community. Though the logistical, social, and psycho-spiritual work that lies ahead is great, we will not shy from the burden.

Service

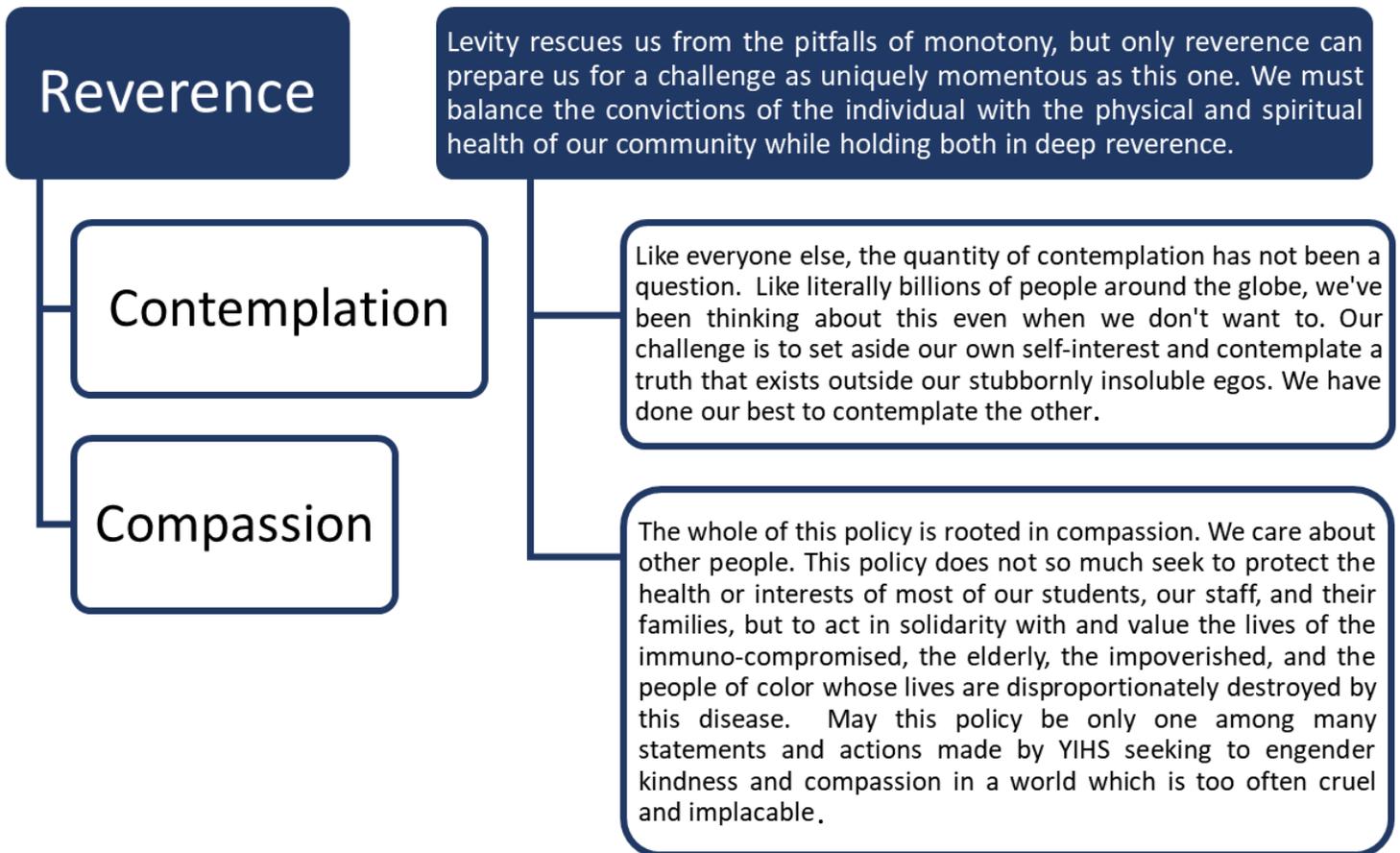
Attention

Duty

In service, we seek to put the needs of others before our own, and in so doing create for ourselves a greater happiness than any earthly convenience can bestow. As an educational community, we are acutely conscious that our actions are in the service not only of our immediate time and place, but of a more perfect future.

In seeking to serve, we must identify those most in need of our sacrifices. Our attention is rightly demanded by those most vulnerable in our communities: the aged and infirm and those who live on the margins of our society are most in need.

We do not seek convenience, but rather seek to weigh our own needs and desires lightly while alleviating the burdens of those around us. We seek no recognition nor reward. We suffer our inconveniences with mute constancy.



This policy supersedes all other YIHS policies with which it conflicts. The entirety of this policy automatically expires on December 31st, 2020. Should a more conservative approach be required as the situation evolves or as executing the dictates of this policy becomes untenable, YIHS will revert to the cohort system laid out in the initial proposal of this policy. A Wellness Task Force will be created to include student, parent, and faculty representation in the work of creating the necessary infrastructure and procuring the necessary materials to carry out this policy effectively. This Task Force will also be employed in continuing to gather and process feedback from the YIHS community as part of an ongoing policy review process.

Changes to the hiring, enrollment, and re-enrollment process

- All YIHS students, staff, and their families must sign a participation waiver which releases YIHS from all responsibility and liability should they or their family members contract COVID-19

Changes to the Cleaning Policy

- Hand sanitizer will be available at all times, in all rooms
- A staff member or parent volunteer will oversee the student cleaning of each room at the end of the day
- Instructors will supervise that table and chair surfaces are sanitized at the end of each class
- Public phones, copy machines, and the water cooler will be sanitized before each use

Changes to the Attendance Policy

- Physical attendance **may not be** a determinant in final evaluation of students at YIHS, excepting Morning Circle. Lack of communication on the part of students regarding absences **may be** a determinant in the final evaluation
- 9th and 11th grade will use the cubbies on the west side of the hallway, 10th and 12th grade will use the east side of the hallway

Changes to the Couch Policy

- All couches and furniture intended for multiple occupants will be removed from the school

Changes to the Schedule

- Academic classes will be held 4 days a week
- All five days (Monday through Friday) will be considered school days for all students with students in physical attendance on the 5th day as requested
- Initiative Time and advisory meetings will be held in the morning, prior to Morning Circle
- One day will be structured and reserved for an increased cleaning regimen, and for committee meetings. All committee meetings will be held on this day. No organized academic activities will be held on this day.

Changes to the Camping Trip

- The camping trip will be held in a location within reasonable daily driving distance to facilitate single vehicle transport
- Students will be required to bring their own tent and food. All sleeping arrangements must be single occupancy
- The 10th and 11th grade expedition sleeping arrangements will be single occupancy

Changes to the Dress Code

- Students will be required to bring a face covering to school each day. If a student does not have a face covering one will be provided to them
- Face coverings will be required for students and staff while indoors
- Face coverings will be required for students and staff interacting with the public on field trips and at public events
- Students need to dress in a way that will allow them to spend several hours at a time out of doors, regardless of the weather

Changes to the Communicable Disease Policy

- All YIHS students, faculty, and their families must sign a pledge to inform YIHS administration of any positive COVID-19 diagnosis within their household. YIHS will hold all personally identifying information in the strictest confidence and will share relevant health information with the school community
- In an effort to reduce the amount of lost school days, students and staff are required to stay home until cleared to return by a medical doctor if exhibiting any of the following unexplained symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Students or staff exhibiting any of the above symptoms at school will be sent home immediately
- YIHS will work with un- or underinsured families to ensure that all students have access to medical consultation and coronavirus testing

Changes to the Bathroom Policy

- Bathrooms will be limited to no more than two occupants at a time

Changes to the Behavior Policy

- The student kitchen will be closed
- Cooking, and the use of school dishes outside the Nutrition classes is not allowed
- Food may not be shared among students from different households
- Students and staff not living in the same household will be expected to maintain 6 feet of distance while at school or participating in school activities whenever possible

Changes to Faculty Class Construction and Classroom Management

- All classes are required to have a google classroom and a published contingency plan for students who experience extended absences to be able to receive credit for the course
- If the temperature is above 32⁰ F, classes may be held outside. Students should prepare accordingly
- Instructors and staff will be expected to be leaders in creating a culture of social distancing and mask-wearing when mandated by this policy
- All interior doors will remain open at all times
- All windows will be open as possible. At a minimum, each classroom will have an operating exhaust fan during school hours

Changes in Morning Circle Protocols

- If the temperature is above 32⁰ F, Morning Circle may be held outside. Students should prepare accordingly
- Morning Circle will be attended physically or virtually all five days of the week.
- Meditation pillows will be removed from the school. Students may bring their own, individual-use meditation pillow

Changes to the Technology Policy

- School computers will not be available for general use. Students will need to bring their own laptops to school. If a student does not have access to a laptop, one can be provided to them