



Learning, Serving, Sharing – Christ

“Unshaken”

“For even if the mountains are removed, and the hills are overthrown, my mercy will not be removed from you, and my covenant of peace will not be overthrown, says the Lord, who is showing you mercy.” (Isaiah 54:10)

Faith Evangelical Lutheran School Guidance for 2021-2022 School Year

Based on the recent changes in [school guidance](#) and executive orders requiring masks in schools in the State of Illinois we have updated our guidance for the 2021-2022 school year. We have spent a lot of time reviewing mandates and recommendations from local, state, and national entities. We have spent time listening to parents and teachers. We have spent considerable time in prayer and continue to pray that the current situation with COVID in our nation and community changes quickly and students can resume education without masks soon. While this plan is our best effort, we recognize that plans may change as we gain more information and learn from experience.

We recognize that some principles have guided us through these guidance discussions. First, we have made sure to continue to uphold God and his Word. When he tells us to honor and obey those in authority through the Fourth Commandment, we have done that. When he has commanded us, through the Fifth Commandment, to protect our neighbor, we have done that. Second, we have considered how our church and school's reputation can continue to be above reproach. Finally, we have considered how to bring glory and honor to God.

With these Biblical principles, and the local, state, and national recommendations as our guide, we present our guidance for the re-opening of Faith Evangelical Lutheran School for the 2021-2022 school year.

Classroom Environment

- It is our number one goal to offer in-person instruction. We feel that students learn best in an environment of face-to-face instruction.
- Students will be required to wear masks at all times inside the building, except for eating and drinking. Families should provide masks that follow CDC guidelines ([more information found here](#)). Please make sure your child knows how to wear a mask properly. General guidance includes: masks should be worn over the nose and under the chin, masks should fit snugly against the sides of your face, and be able to breathe easily. Families are also asked to provide an extra mask each day in the event that a mask is or becomes unwearable. In the case of a student forgetting a face mask, the school will provide a disposable surgical mask for the day. In the event of a student forgetting a mask on multiple days, we will contact the parents.
- Students will sit in desks that face the same direction and are spaced at the current CDC recommendation of 3ft or more for students properly masked in schools.

- The CDC defines [close contact](#) as 1) being within 6 feet of someone¹, 2) having direct physical contact with someone, and 3) being sneezed or coughed on by someone. Teachers and students will occasionally find themselves within 6 feet of each other. We will make every effort to make sure those events are few in number and short in duration. The most common occurrence of violating the 6-foot social distancing window would be a teacher helping a student with homework or something else inside the classroom. We also recognize that teachers (especially teachers that teach our youngest students) may need to occasionally physically redirect a student. This redirection will only be done when the safety of the students is in question. Every effort will be made to properly sanitize after this contact. Please speak with your child's classroom teacher about their protocol for informing parents about a violation of close contact.
- Students will be screened upon entry to the school or will fill out the self-certification form before coming to school. The self-certification form can be found by clicking [here](#).
- This year we will be continuing to use the outside pick up and drop off practices. It is incredibly challenging to socially-distance with our average number of occupants at pick-up and drop-off times. There will be staff available to help direct younger students to their classrooms. We will be using our walkie-talkie system to call students, by family, for pick-up at the end of the school day. We will also have cones dividing our front steps to direct which side is used to enter and exit the building. **HOWEVER**, we will have a process allowing parents into the school during pick up to directly address any issues with their student's teacher.
- Increased sanitation will include frequent touchpoints being sanitized multiple times during the day, desks being sanitized before and after snack and lunch, classrooms and recess equipment at the end of each day, and other measures. For further questions on classroom sanitization, please speak with your child's classroom teacher.
- There will be an extra emphasis on personal cleanliness as well. We will emphasize appropriate handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. You can find more information on proper handwashing and use of hand sanitizer by clicking [here](#).
- Students are asked to each bring a water bottle to school. We will not be allowing drinking fountains to be used except the water bottle filling stations.
- For this school year we are planning on the students being able to sing. Students will remain masked and socially distanced during performance. Singing at school will occur in the gym. Further guidance will be provided for choir and class singing at church.
- Students will be able to take masks off for lunch. It is incredibly essential to maintain social distancing during this mask-free time. Students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Students will have access to microwaves. Milk will be handed out by the classroom teacher.
- Items brought from home should not be shared. These items could include show-and-tell, snacks, treats.

¹ For students in a classroom setting, this becomes 3feet within other students if both correctly and consistently wear a well-fitted mask.

Outside Environment

- Students may remove masks outside if there is social distancing. The removal of masks will take place at the discretion of the teacher. If you have a preference for your child, whether to mask and play with others or to unmask and stay socially distanced, please speak with your child's classroom teacher.
- Students may play with other students or on playground equipment. We will still avoid "close contact" (see definition above).
- Classrooms may need to use different entrances and exits to maintain proper social distancing.
- Bathroom breaks will be staggered as it is necessary to maintain appropriate social distancing.

Health Protocols

Many questions have been asked regarding when to stay home, how long quarantine should last, and when students or staff can return after illness. We will attempt to answer those questions here. We realize that best practice protocols are always changing. We will keep all families up-to-date if any protocols change.

- If you are not sure whether you send your child to school, please follow the CDC guidelines found [here](#). A short summary includes monitoring your body temperature and determining whether you have any new or worsening [COVID-19 symptoms](#). You may also find the [self-certification form](#) to be beneficial. Because we understand that many COVID symptoms are similar to allergies, common cold, and a variety of other illnesses, we ask families to be abundantly cautious in deciding to send your child to school. Generally, if your child is not feeling well, please keep them home. If your child has allergies or COVID-19 symptoms that are normal to your child, please make sure to communicate this with your child's classroom teacher before sending your child to school.
- If your child has been in contact with someone who has or may have COVID-19, please keep your child home and continue to monitor symptoms. If your child has been in "close contact" (see definition above) with someone who has or may have COVID-19, your child should be quarantined for a period of 14 days.
- If your child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while he/she is at school, your child will be sent to a quarantine zone in our school. Your child will receive constant supervision in this environment. Our Director of Christian Education will determine whether the child needs to be sent home. If the Director of Christian Education is unavailable, the Parish Administrator will make the determination.
- Your child may return to school after COVID-19 or if you think your child had COVID-19 if 1) it has been at least 10 days since symptoms appeared, AND 2) your child has not had a fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND 3) symptoms have improved. If your child showed no symptoms, your child may return after 10 days have passed since the positive test. Your child's vaccination status will also be used to help determine quarantine length as outlined by CDC guidelines.

- If a child needs to be quarantined or isolated, and cannot receive in-person instruction for a short period, remote instruction will be provided during the period of quarantine or isolation. Please communicate with the school regarding when your child can return to school for in-person instruction.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Decisions regarding extra-curricular activities are not final at this time. We will continue to monitor recommendations and discussions with our Lake Lutheran Athletic Conference and will update parents as guidance becomes available.

Before and After-School Care

- Before and After-School Care is available for your children at usual times (6:30 – 7:45 am and 3:15 – 6:00 pm). Before and After-School Care will follow the same guidelines as the school.

Summary of Resources

CDC Guidelines and Recommendations for mask wearing and mask care:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

COVID-19 Symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Faith Self-Certification Form: <https://forms.gle/skpyQs43zgFPEKej8>

Proper handwashing: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

When to quarantine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

When to isolate: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

When you can be around others: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>