



Return to Campus Plan

COVID-19 Student Return-to-Campus Plan

Faith Lutheran School intends to open in the fall of 2020, with in-person classes on a five-day weekly schedule.

The first day of school will be September 9, 2020.

In order to do this, we need to carefully consider how to accommodate the health needs of our students, faculty, and staff—especially those who are at increased risk by the COVID-19 virus. This guide outlines necessary procedures to mitigate the risks for our safe return to campus. It was developed in consultation with OSPI and local health care guidance. This guide will continue to be revised as information and understanding of COVID-19 evolves.

Four core values guided the development of this plan.



Faith Lutheran School (FLS) values its students and employees, and their families first and foremost.

There is much we do not know about COVID-19. Because of this, we need to be cautious, while remaining calm. Our calling is to support and sustain the people God has gifted us to work with and for. This is our top priority.



FLS values its community.

We appreciate those with whom we live and work. Therefore, we choose to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 as an expression of whole-community care.



FLS values global citizenship and integrity.

We interact with many students, faculty, and staff each school day. By extension, this means we also “interact” with thousands in the surrounding communities. A public health crisis requires a public health response, and we choose to do our part in working toward a wise, balanced response to this crisis.



FLS values health and whole person wellness.

Mitigation response reduces the number of active COVID-19 cases, which in turn gives doctors, hospitals, police, schools, and vaccine manufacturers time to prepare and respond, without becoming overwhelmed. We will continue to make choices and adopt practices that err on the side of life, health, and wellness: mind, body, and spirit.

This plan is consistent with the recommendations detailed by: Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District Planning Guide as specified by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Publication F414-169-000 (06-2020), COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry published by the American Academy of Pediatricians, and the general business guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

Values: Who We Are and How We Do Things -

“Eagle Wingspan” - Spreading Our Wings to Soar Together

The scripture passage upon which Faith Lutheran School was established is:

*. . . but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

What a great way to approach life! Even more so with the chaos of the past several months and the uncertainty of what the future holds. At Faith, we hope in the Lord! In all the ways life has changed for us, God is the solid foundation of our hope. His love for us in Christ is relentless and unchanging. This love is the motivation behind our ability to care for one another. Spreading our wings to soar with one another will remind students of whose we are, but also how we can care for one another through this unprecedented experience.

Each person at Faith is integral to this plan’s success. Our goal is to continue providing Faith students with an excellent educational experience, while mitigating the potential for transmission of COVID-19.

This plan will continue to evolve as we make decisions and implement plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Continue to check email frequently and/or visit the FLS website for updates.

We are committed in our mission to engage and challenge students in their educational journey as we develop a partnership with their families. At the same time, the health and wellness of all members of the community are the utmost priority. In order to balance and fulfill both of these values, FLS acknowledges two contingencies related to teaching and learning this fall:

Necessary precautions to discourage the spread of COVID-19 and mindfulness of individual health concerns will influence the delivery of face-to-face teaching and learning.

If widespread COVID-19 resurgence occurs, FLS will again consider the need to move all students, faculty, and staff to a remote learning environment to protect the health and well-being of all.

Faith’s plan of preparedness follows Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and current state and county governmental guidelines/standards/plans.

The plan addresses:

- General Health Practices
- Academics
 - Specials - Art, Music, PE
 - Technology Integration
- Chapel, Drop Off/Pick Up, Lunch, Recesses, Library

It is our hope that the following strategies will ensure student safety, health, and wellness. Working together as a community, we can do much to prevent the spread of COVID-19 even as we return to campus and being together in community under different circumstances.

The FLS Task Force, administration, and school board continue to plan for the safety of all members of the FLS community. Therefore, this plan will evolve and be updated regularly. We continue to research and study and, when appropriate, will communicate and implement up-to-date information and procedures accordingly. Please continue to check the school website.

Disease Prevention and Good Health Practices

CDC-recommended infection control practices will be followed everywhere on campus.

These practices include:



Hand Sanitizing Stations

Hand sanitizing stations (of at least 60% alcohol content) will be placed throughout campus. Every classroom will have at least one such station.

Frequent Cleaning and Disinfecting

Classrooms, bathrooms, the lunch area, and all other areas students frequently use will be regularly cleaned and disinfected. High-touch surfaces such as door handles, will be disinfected several times throughout the school day.

Handwashing

Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day for at least 20 seconds, as recommended by the CDC. The most important of these times will be before lunch when a temperature screening will also be administered.

Physical Distancing

Students, faculty, and staff will maintain a physical distance of 6 feet as much as possible throughout the school day. “Eagle Wingspan” may become a phrase you hear a great deal this year! Stretching arms straight out to “soar like an eagle” will assist young students to understand and remember to maintain physical distance from others. Classroom furniture, lunchroom tables, and other public spaces will be arranged to accommodate this physical distancing.

Personal Protective Items and Use

FLS will provide every student with one washable, reusable cloth facial covering/mask. Families may consider obtaining additional facial coverings. Home-made or commercially-manufactured masks are acceptable. Multiple face coverings will allow for rotation of use and the ability to wash them often. Plan to have at least several face coverings for this reason.



Respiratory Etiquette

All students and staff will wear a facial covering (cloth mask OR clear, full-face shield) when in public spaces such as classrooms, the lunchroom, or the gym where minimum physical distancing is more difficult to manage. Disposable face coverings/masks will be provided for visitors who need to be on campus and do not already have one; these are designed for one-time use and must be placed in the trash and replaced daily.

Please note: The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, especially in areas of community transmission. A cloth face covering does not generally protect the wearer from viruses, but it decreases the spread of viruses from the wearer to other people.

The FLS office area will continue serving families virtually. Parents are encouraged to utilize virtual services to minimize risk of exposure. When absolutely necessary, parents may set an appointment to connect with staff on campus. Visitors to campus will be held accountable for adhering to physical-distancing guidelines, wearing a face covering and modeling safe health practices.

Screenings

Students and staff will undergo a temperature screening upon their arrival to campus. Additional screenings will be conducted throughout the school day. Students or staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus will be immediately isolated while arrangements are made for them to leave campus as soon as possible.

Please note: It is absolutely imperative that individuals stay or be kept at home if they or anyone in their immediately family has symptoms of COVID-19. History indicates that people often go to work or school when they are ill. This cannot happen in the present situation. Such behavior will create dangerous situations for others or inconvenient quarantine and subsequent remote learning situations. This policy must be agreed upon and adhered to by all members of the Faith community if we are to fulfill our commitment to keeping everyone safe while remaining on campus for face-to-face learning.

Academic Plan

The overarching goal of this return-to-campus plan is to bring as much normality back to the learning process as possible for students and families. To quote the American Academy of Pediatrics "Guidance for School Re-entry" document, "Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being and provide our children with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits." Here at FLS, we express this as "caring for the whole person" rather than focusing just on academic content. Students need to be ready for much more than "the test" in order to live life well as God intended. The above stated goal is to have Faith students "ready" to move forward in all facets of their lives.

How this goal will be accomplished with COVID-19 safety measures in effect:

- In class learning will include the use of Google Classroom in all grade levels. This will allow teachers to train students to use this system and required procedures while together.
- Teachers will deliver content (up to 10%) from each subject area "online" while in class. This will enable students to practice skills and receive assistance in person. (The goal is to be prepared for a pivot to remote learning should it be required.)
- Classrooms will remain separate as "cohort" groups as much as possible. (Departmentalization in the middle school will be suspended for this school year.) This practice will also enhance FLS's ability to assist local health agencies with contact tracing should a COVID-19 case be confirmed in the FLS community.
- Physical distancing requirements as applied to specific physical classrooms dictate that class sizes will be limited to:
 - Preschool and PreK - 14 students
 - Junior Kindergarten - 16 students
 - Kindergarten - 16 students
 - Grade 1 - 14 students
 - Grade 2 - 14 students
 - Grade 3 - 12 students
 - Grade 4 - 12 students
 - Grades 5/6 - 12 students
 - Grades 7/8 - 12 students

These numbers represent the maximum number of students based on optimal arranging of desks and/or other classroom furniture. (i.e., tables for younger students.)

- Supply lists for each class can be found on the school website. Please note that there will be no "shared" supplies on these lists. It is important to purchase only the numeric quantities listed due to limited classroom storage space for each student.

Specials - Art, Music, PE

These are and will remain important content areas of the Faith curriculum. Individual student interest and giftedness make these areas critical to individual student motivation. Creativity and self-expression fostered by engagement in these areas is easily transferred to and enhances work in core content areas of Faith's curriculum. Every effort will be made to retain these content areas with required adherence to COVID-19 health requirements.

Though many decisions are yet to be determined, the following points will be the foundational structure upon which our plan will be based.

- Specials will be experienced as class groups (cohorts).
- Classrooms or areas where special content will be taught will be cleaned and sanitized after each class.
- Enrollment will determine whether these content areas will be taught by specialty teachers or be led by the grade level teacher of the class.

Technology Integration Plan

The Faith faculty and staff is excited to welcome students back to campus this fall! Student learning involves so much more than simply being in classrooms. FLS faculty and staff remain committed to providing students an outstanding education. As we prepare for the next academic year, faculty are already at work developing and updating content and methods of delivery. As always, our teachers apply sound educational practice and use evidence-based teaching methods so that students receive a creative, rigorous, dynamic Christian education, no matter the format of delivery.

The 2020-2021 school year will see significant changes in how teachers and staff engage and communicate with students and their families. All classes will adopt Google Suite for Education for curriculum engagement. This will allow for continuity across grade levels so students become familiar with the system early in their academic journey and will better develop the skills to use this system of sharing and collaboration effectively as they advance to the upper grade levels. This system will be used during face-to-face learning while on campus so students are prepared with procedures and skills in the event that remote learning becomes necessary or required at some point in the school year.

Please note: All staff and faculty email addresses are being changed to better integrate with the Google Suite system. FLS email addresses will use the FLSchool.org domain from this point forward. Please use this email domain when corresponding with Faith staff. (e.g., c.neumiller@faithcampus.org will become c.neumiller@flschool.org)

Work is being done this summer to acquire technology in the form of Chromebooks and/or tablets for all students. This will require some changes to the fee structure for various grade levels. The intent is still to have all technology fees over subsequent school years apply to the purchase of this device upon graduation from eighth grade or withdrawing from FLS. Wi-Fi connectivity is also being upgraded over the summer to ensure capable use by increased numbers of users.

FLS has purchased administrative software to better communicate with parents, track and report data, and streamline procedures for all grade levels. Many parents may be familiar with such systems in public schools. Sycamore School is a web-based student information system Faith will use for attendance, report cards, and communication. This system will allow Faith parents/guardians to see assignments, grades, and attendance in real time using their smartphone with the Sycamore app or a computer with internet access. We are in the process of setting up online enrollment as well as account billing and payment options. Sycamore School integrates with Google Suite for Education so grades from Google can produce report cards in Sycamore for seamless productivity and efficiency. The prospect of having repetitive school procedures be more efficient makes this a worthwhile addition.

Chapel

As noted in the introduction of this plan, core values are very important to us, here at Faith. Encouraging people to learn about the relationship God desires with each and every person on earth is the foundation for everything that happens here. The congregational mission statement is “Raising Up Families and Followers of Jesus Christ” because we believe Jesus is God’s plan for restoring that desired relationship in the midst of this broken and hurting world. Even during this unprecedented, chaotic time in history, and maybe more so because of it, we feel it is essential to trust that God is with us through difficult times. There is no better way to do this than to worship Him together as a community.

Details for how this will be accomplished are still being discussed. However, a few options are listed here:

- Classes will remain in cohorts as we gather in this larger environment
- Gathering outside with physical distancing, while the weather allows
- Gathering in the gym with physical distancing
- Doing chapel on two days each week so all Preschool and PreK students can participate and the grades can be divided between the days for better ease of distancing
- Gathering together virtually – leaders do chapel in the sanctuary through live stream video while classes participate in their various classrooms

Lunch

Plans have been developed to provide hot lunch to students in the lunchroom meeting physical distancing requirements. Classes will rotate through a schedule allowing each to have approximately twenty minutes to eat followed by a twenty-minute recess. The room will be disinfected between each class.

As is true for nearly all COVID-related planning, multiple scenarios must be considered to ensure one exists for what will actually take place. The hot lunch program for 2020-2021 is no exception.

In the event the lunch coordinator is out sick:

- Day 1 - The scheduled lunch will be changed to cheese pizza for all students who ordered hot lunch that day.
- Day 2 and all following days - Lunches will need to be sent from home until the office communicates when hot lunch will resume.

- Refunds or credits will be issued for any lunch days canceled due to the lunch coordinator being absent.

Supply shortages and purchase limitations due to Covid-19 may create the possibility that not all ingredients will be available for any particular scheduled lunch. This would necessitate making day-of substitutions to the menu. Refunds will not be issued for these occasions; however, accommodations will be made for students with documented allergies.

Obvious health concerns prohibit the use of microwave ovens for student use. Hot water will still be available for ramen noodle cups.

In the event of a school closure, arrangements will be communicated regarding a plan for refunds/credits.

Recess

Class cohorts will also rotate through a schedule for outside recess as well as between designated play areas containing playground equipment or grass field game activities. Each class cohort will have designated playground/PE equipment which will be cleaned and sanitized by the class after each use.

Library

At present, use of the library is also being planned using a class cohort rotation schedule. However, further consideration is being given to the limited physical space this room offers. A clear plan of use will be more easily discussed upon the return of teachers and staff in August.

Illness Plan

What if a student/staff member becomes ill?

This is an important question. The mitigation plan for our return to campus will certainly limit members of the Faith community from many illnesses, but will most likely not prevent *all* illness throughout the school year. This question is multifaceted, with significant implications for course planning. There are several different scenarios in which students and/or staff members will need to be absent.

Students or staff with COVID symptoms

If a student or staff member gets sick with any symptoms that could represent COVID-19 [<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>], they will need to self-isolate until they can be tested and shown to be negative.

This means any student with a sore throat, cough, fever (100+), runny nose, fatigue, or body aches will have to stay home and not go to class until they are able to get tested and that test result comes back negative. This may take several days, or become longer if there is a large increase in the number of cases being tested. Overwhelming the medical system with large case loads is what we can all help to avoid by following these mitigation procedures. Trying to “tough it out” and still go to work is to potentially endanger our colleagues and our students. We must stay home, get tested, and wait for the test results.

Students who are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case

Any person who is a close contact of a known positive case will need to quarantine themselves for 14 days. This would include family members, roommates, close friends, or any others with whom they have been in close proximity for more than 10-15 minutes. Even if these students don't develop symptoms and even if they get a negative test result during their quarantine period, these contacts will still need to stay home for 14 days.

Staff would not, under normal conditions and if following the recommendations above (physical distancing and mask-wearing), meet these criteria as close contacts and therefore would not need to quarantine. If a staff member had worked closely with a student, especially if without a mask, they would likely need to quarantine for 14 days if that student tested positive for COVID-19.

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19

A student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate for a period of time after their diagnosis. Guidelines are currently being updated due to new information, but the infected individual may need to be absent for a minimum of 10-14 days from the date of symptom start, assuming they are then clinically improving. Most young people who get this infection will start to improve within two weeks, but some may have a very serious or prolonged course of illness that could require them to be absent from school or work for many weeks or even months.

Faith's Priority is Everyone's Health

This pandemic experience gives us the opportunity to examine Faith's educational delivery and improve practices on many levels. Our top priority in returning to campus is to provide a safe environment for learning. As the caring community God has called us to be, Faith Lutheran School will do everything in our power to make that happen.

We, at Faith, care about mental and physical health. We care about your experience as a family and want to reduce family stress as much as possible, while also decreasing stress for our staff and faculty.

Please pray with us for God's guidance and wisdom to succeed in accomplishing these goals.