

FLS Updates – May 1, 2020

Grading is a major issue the state superintendent, the state board of education, and our staff have been discussing for several weeks. This is a topic that can be approached from a myriad of perspectives in the best of times. It becomes even more complex in the midst of mandated school closures and the complete reworking of content delivery to remote learning models. I appreciate how State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal, recently summarized our present situation:

“In this global crisis, teachers are overwhelmed, parents and guardians are overwhelmed, and many of our students are overwhelmed. Getting through all the chapters and all the assignments is not our priority right now. Checking in with students and families and offering continuous learning against a handful of critical standards is our need. Together, we have eight weeks to ensure that all our students have the most essential building blocks in place to achieve success in their next class, their next grade, and their next pursuit.”

(To read Superintendent Reykdal’s entire letter, click [here](#).)

The goal of the Faith Lutheran staff has been, and continues to be, caring for our students in the most wholistic manner possible. For us, that means having every student as ready as they can possibly be for the next step in their educational journey. This readiness includes emotional stability in feeling cared for just as much as the foundational content required for the next level of conceptual understanding. Learning is more about growth than grades.

Therefore, we are adapting our approach to grading, attendance, and report cards for the third trimester of this unprecedented experience of the 2019-20 school year. Grace and care will be the focus, especially as we consider the inequity that distance learning inevitably creates for the variety of students with whom we work.

Here is what this will mean in various grade levels as well as some specific areas of concern:

- **General Information and End-of-Year Awards**
 - Attendance
 - Attendance will be tracked “officially” through March 13, 2020. Awards for “perfect attendance” will be based on records through this date.
 - Participation in classroom activities after this date, while expected, will not be officially tracked or recorded by the school office.
 - Passport
 - Passport awards will be based on progress as of February 2020 testing. Students who passed all levels to that point will be awarded as passing 100%.
 - Honor Role / GPA (*Only applies to grades 5-8*)
 - GPA will not be recorded on report cards for third trimester in terms of permanent record. However, students earning various levels of academic achievement will be recognized in the Faith community.
 - Each student’s permanent record will include a notation addressing the unique nature of third trimester grading due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Graduation for Grade Eight
 - Every attempt is being made to have a celebration for these students. More information will be shared as it becomes clear what may be allowed!

Report Cards

- Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Junior Kindergarten
 - Trimesters one and two will be completed as usual.
 - Trimester three will only contain information in the “comment” section regarding skills to be worked on through summer break, encouragement for progress attained, prayers and appreciation, as well as assessment in terms of student readiness for next grade level.
- Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2
 - Report cards will contain progress assessment of Pass/No Pass for all content areas except enrichment subject areas (i.e., music, art, PE)
 - Individual student skills assessments will be conducted via Zoom or other distance technology. Please note that methods used by individual teachers will vary by subject and/or grade level.
 - Observable behavior skills such as “School Work Habits” will not be assessed due to online learning as a result of coronavirus.
- Grade 3 – 8
 - Subject area assessment will be recorded as “E”- Excellent, “S”-Satisfactory, or “N”- No Progress Made rather than typical letter grades. Enrichment subject areas will not be assessed.
 - Grades 5-8 will not have GPA recorded on report card. (See note above.)

This year is obviously going to be known as unique in many ways when future history books are written. Individual student grades will not be the main focus of what is remembered, nor should they be. However, what does need to be remembered is this: Faith students emerged from the 2019-20 school year with a sense that they had been cared for and that they were prepared for the next year of learning.

God’s Peace!
Mr. Neumiller

Funding needed

Every year, Faith Lutheran School (FLS) holds an auction to raise money to support our Christian education program. Part of the night’s program is Bid for Kids. That is a time when attendees raise their bid numbers to donate to the FLS scholarship fund. This year, since the auction was canceled, we are unable to hold the Bid for Kids, but the need for scholarship is still there—possibly even greater than in previous years. If God is leading you, and you are in a financial position to make a donation to our scholarship fund, there are three ways to make a donation: 1) write a check made out to FLS with *scholarship* in the memo line and mail it to Faith Lutheran School, 7075 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503, or 2) click this [link](#) or go to the FLS website at www.flsschool.org and click on the **Donate** link on the menu bar, or 3) sponsor a student – make a monthly donation from September through June.



Your Giving Changes Lives, Forever.

When you give, you are putting God first in your life and allowing God to work through you to help raise up families and followers of Jesus Christ!

Faith Lutheran School Coronavirus updates: (Please note new items are in red font.)

- FLS office hours will be Monday – Friday; 9:00am to 1:00pm until further notice.
- **The church is collecting items for the rummage sale which has been postponed until October. All donations must be clean, sorted and in sellable condition.** Please bundle toys that belong together in zip lock bags. Items can be donated at the community center (gym building). It will be open Wednesdays from 11:00 – 3:00 until the *Stay Home Stay Safe* order is lifted.
- If you purchased lunches in March after the 15th, please email the school office at flsoffice@faithcampus.org to let us know whether you would like a refund or would like to make a donation of that amount. **If we have not heard from you by May 15, we will apply these dollars as a donation to the lunch program.**
- **Families experiencing financial hardship during this unprecedented school closure due to loss of income, please contact Mr. Neumiller.**
- **Very important information:**
The lessening of restrictions for the benefit of the economy will NOT include students returning to school this spring. Student-to-student proximity in classrooms is far more close or dense than almost any other work environment. The gains in slowing the spread of the coronavirus outbreak would be soon lost if social distancing were not extremely gradual. Returning students and teachers to classrooms would be the least gradual method of lessening quarantine restrictions. This fact has medical and governmental leaders even cautious about the return to classrooms in the fall.

General Coronavirus Resources:

- [WA State Department of Health - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [CDC - Resources for Home webpage](#)