

FLS Update – May 15, 2020

What will fall look like?

I have asked, I have been asked, I will continue to ask, and I know all of you are asking your employers, your doctors, and your children's schools. The honest truth is no one really knows, other than leaves will change color and fall from their trees and the weather will get cooler.

What I can tell you is that we, the Faith staff/faculty, are not only asking all of the same questions, but we have also begun the process of planning. Not in the way we have been accustomed to for previous fall starts, but rather planning for the many contingencies that fall of 2020 will bring. You will find more detailed information below in this updates section under the heading OSPI/DOH updates.

What is important for you to know, at least from my perspective, is that we are hopeful. We are even a little excited (as odd as that may sound!) to have the opportunity to better prepare for the new "normal" that this pandemic has forced upon all of us. We were able to adjust very quickly, on the fly, when the closure news came to us in March, and I commend the teaching staff here at Faith for their tenacity and care in making those changes. Their determination and innovation ensured that their students missed very little learning time. Since we know that next year will, indeed, remain different from what we have known in our "past normal," imagine how prepared we can be! Though we cannot know the exact logistical details required for each class, we will certainly be better prepared to engage students in the learning process having experienced what they have needed in this chaotic time of transition. We are excited to plan for the various scenarios, because we are committed to having our students be able to learn without concern for how content is shared. And, we know they will be ready!

This brings me to an important point: Faith students will be ready to learn next fall because they have you. Yes, Faith teachers have provided curriculum and support (working many more hours than they ever dreamed they could working at home!), but we also know that the support, encouragement, and partnership you committed to as parents on behalf of your children is a major factor in their being ready to learn next fall. I thank you all for the love and care you have modeled for your children in maintaining and undergirding the importance of their ability to continue learning. Our goal as a teaching staff is to create an environment in which life-long learning is modeled and given the opportunity to be ignited in each student. We look forward to continuing the revised educational partnership we now have with each of you as together we ignite the love for learning each of your children was created to experience. This attitude is vital as they learn who God created them to be.

In the midst of these changes, one thing remains constant: God! He loves each and every one of us and shows that love in His Son, Jesus. His love in Christ allows us to truly care for one another. So, the other constant thing you can be sure will remain the same is that your child(ren) will be cared for and loved. What that love and care look like in terms of behavior is going to most certainly be different! There will be social distancing awareness, hand washing, temperature taking, mask wearing, etc. But the result will be the same; children knowing they are loved!

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!

FLS - Shoe Drive

Thank you to all of our Faith families for your support of our shoe drive! Because the school and church closed one month into the shoe drive, we will continue to collect shoes over the summer and officially restart the shoe drive in October. Some of you are using this time to clean out your closets to find those gently worn shoes, slippers, boots, flip flops, etc. that no longer fit or are just not your style anymore. It is so fun to find a bag of shoes dropped off at the door or to see a bin that has been filled up with donations!! If you have a Facebook page or other social media account, share our shoe drive with your family and friends. Let's see if we can't get close to 7,500 pair of shoes by the time we start school again in the fall.

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.
- **Families experiencing financial hardship during this unprecedented school closure due to loss of income, please contact Mr. Neumiller.**

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) / Department of Health (DOH) Updates

Information from the OSPI stakeholders meeting held Wednesday, May 13, on how to reopen schools is below. The seven scenarios are based on three potential virus patterns suggested by the Department of Health. These patterns are:

1. A spike in Sept/Oct that would close everything down once again.
2. A rolling high and low all year, which would have schools closing and opening throughout the year.
3. A ‘slow burn’ which is what we are experiencing now. New virus infections and the resulting deaths not slowing down dramatically; no clear drop in the curve from the peak of the spread.

A list of options for what an “open” school might look like next year given the possible health concerns that may exist at that time. (These are examples for consideration.)

1. Traditional on-site, face-to-face school
2. Split or rotating schedules
3. Split or rotating schedules with distance learning
4. Phased-in opening WITHOUT distance learning
5. Phased-in opening WITH distance learning
6. Continuous Learning 1.0

Definition:

“Establishing and maintaining connections with students and families to provide learning materials and supports using a variety of modalities (e.g., email, phone, printed learning materials, and available online platforms).

7. Continuous Learning 2.0
Better planning for use of available resources, social distancing demands, and adaptations required by state health or other government officials.

General Coronavirus Resources

- [WA State Department of Health - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [CDC - Resources for Home webpage](#)
- [Article - "The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them"](#)