

St. Paul's Lutheran School's Plan for Reopening the 2020-2021 School Year

Given the continued COVID-19 global pandemic, St. Paul's Lutheran School is making changes to keep students, staff members, and families as safe as possible. Nothing is more important than keeping our students, staff members, and families safe, and you will see some new safety measures in the 2020-2021 school year to make that happen.

St. Paul's Lutheran School will be prepared to provide the protective equipment necessary to keep our students and staff safe, and this may include masks. Staff members will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks or shields when moving from one place to another in our school. Students will be provided disposable masks if they choose to use them. We are developing plans for reconfiguring spaces and classrooms to maintain social distancing practices. We are working on protocols for social distancing during our Before Care, After Care, lunchtime, weekly Chapel and arrival and dismissal times. Our traditional "morning meeting" in the gym will now take place in the classrooms. There will also be additional cleaning procedures throughout the building.

St. Paul's Lutheran School will add signs throughout the building to encourage students, staff, and visitors to follow safety procedures including social distancing and frequent hand-washing.

We're continuing to work closely with the Garfield County Health Department, State Department of Education, and local health care professionals for guidance as we continue to plan for the upcoming school year.

There is still a lot of work to be done. This is new to all of us and the ever changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic makes it difficult to make plans with any certainty. That being said, we as educators, want to ensure that all students are receiving high-quality education.

While making our "Reopening" plan for the 2020-2021 School Year – the following items have been our priority.

- ✓ Providing the best possible educational experience for our students
- ✓ The health and safety of our students and staff
- ✓ The social and emotional needs of our students and staff
- ✓ The need to be flexible during these uncertain times
- ✓ Address any learning holes or gaps that occurred during the past five months.

We are preparing to return to school in a traditional format (in-person instruction) for the 2020-2021 School year on August 13th. We will be incorporating online assignments periodically in the classroom to advance our technology skills. In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for Covid 19, this increased use of technology will be in place when the student and their classroom is asked to quarantine at home for a period of time designated by the CDC and/or our local health department

(typically 14 days). At this time, we do not feel it is necessary for the entire school to close if someone tests positive, but will continue to receive guidance from the appropriate health agencies.

Upon entering the building, all students' and staff members' temperature will be taken. It will be a quick process and parents will need to wait in their car until we give the "thumbs up" that the temperature is below 100 degrees. Due to the virus, parents will not be accompanying their students to the classroom (special consideration is being given to our PreK students). If your child's temperature is above 100 degrees, your child will be asked to stay at home. It is so very important that if your child has a temperature, please keep them at home until they have been fever free for 48 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.). We are also asking that they see their physician to determine if the fever is Covid-19 related. Please bring a doctor's note that states they are cleared to return to school. While many children will present with fever initially, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop initially include the following: chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Before Care will take place in the all-purpose room "gym" in designated socially distanced assigned spots. Students will have access to coloring, puzzles, building materials, as well as books. Those students arriving 8:00AM and after, will report directly to their classroom after their temperature checks. Hallways will be marked with "one-way" signs to keep classes from passing in the narrow confines of our office area.

We are very pleased with our class sizes this year. We feel that we can successfully provide procedures to increase physical and social distancing in the classroom; however, we realize this is truly our greatest challenge. Bathroom monitoring will take place to avoid overcrowding. Any visitors entering the building will be screened with temperature checks and a signed health attestation similar to the ones provided at medical facilities. They will also be asked to wear a mask.

We will begin the year with two lunch periods and continue until virus data indicates otherwise. Upon entering the building from recess, students will observe the one-way hallway signs as well as utilize the provided hand sanitizer.

Our common areas and all classrooms will be disinfected daily, especially high-touch areas. This is critical and of the utmost importance to our school.

Dismissal procedures will be somewhat similar to the past; however, procedures will be in place to limit "clusters" while waiting.

Your child's education is extremely important to us and we feel very confident that with the help of teachers and parents working as partners we can safely return to school. We are committed to your children and know through prayer and flexibility, we can provide quality education with high academic standards. God has us all in His hands and we know He will guide us through this very new endeavor.

Note: Plans above are subject to change as new information becomes available.