

Zion Lutheran School Plan for Fall 2020—Approved 7/30/2020

Hello Friends! We are excited to welcome all of our students back to school for the 2020-2021 school year. During the past weeks we have been researching the best ways for Zion to safely make this happen. Our goal is to be able to open our doors to provide our students as safe an environment as possible in which to learn and thrive.

In some ways, Zion will operate a bit differently, but in most ways everything will be the same. Our teachers will be guiding, teaching, and inspiring students. We will be sharing the love of Jesus every day as we have always done. While we do this important work, wellness protocols will be a part of our days. As always, it will be important for us to work closely with parents. These are times when our partnership will be especially critical for success.

Inside you will find our COVID-19 plan for Fall 2020. Our plan has been developed with considerations from the Waukesha County Health Department, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and various other public agencies. It provides a look at what you can expect to see in place as we open for classes in August. Of course, as we have experienced over the past months, changes are likely to occur. We will adjust as needed. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support as we move forward!

Basic Understandings:

- The most effective means of educating children is through face-to-face, in-person instruction.
- The primary method of COVID-19 transmission is through airborne droplets sneezed, coughed, or exhaled.
- The majority of COVID-19 cases involve adults. Children seem to be at lower risk of infection, and those children who are infected generally show milder symptoms.
- Some members of our community are at higher risk due to underlying health issues.
- COVID-19 symptoms are quite variable. Because of this, students and adults who are ill with any of the symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to school, in order to protect everyone else. These symptoms include fever over 100.4, persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Masks

Wearing of masks has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Masks will be required during certain times of the school day for all students. Students should have their own masks. We recommend that each child have at least 2 cloth masks. Cloth masks should be treated like undergarments—washed daily, with a clean mask put on to begin each day.

Morning Arrival Protocols

Please follow the protocols listed below:

- No student or staff member should come to school if ill.
- No student or staff member should come to school if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (Please refer to the section on COVID-19 infections for more information.)
- Parents should remain in their vehicle, dropping off their child(ren) when they reach the front of the car line. (Please see the *Note below on special instructions for parents of 4K and 5K students.)
- All students and staff members must have their temperature taken before entering the building. Re-checks will be done if necessary. Those with temperatures of 100.4 degrees or more will be required to go home.
- All students and staff members must wear a mask when entering the building.
- When entering the building, students and staff members must use hand sanitizer.
- Everyone will be expected to practice six feet social distancing as much as possible. (Parents with young children should practice this new skill!)

*Note: We recognize that our youngest students (4K and 5K) may be anxious about school, especially for the first several weeks. For the first two weeks of school, 4K and 5K will begin at 8:15am. Parents of 4K and 5K students will be allowed to bring their child into the building and drop them off at their classroom 8:00-8:15am. Parents and their children will be temperature checked at the door, and must wear a mask when entering the building. Parents will not be allowed to enter the classroom, and should leave the building immediately after dropping off their child at the classroom. Beginning the third week of school (September 8), 4K and 5K will begin at 8:00am, and all 4K and 5K students will be expected to enter the school building on their own.

After School Departure Protocols

Grade 4K, 5K, and 1 students will be dismissed from the church narthex. All other students will be dismissed from their classrooms.

- All students and staff members must wear masks when leaving the building. Car line will operate as usual.
- Parents must remain in their vehicle. Car doors will be opened by staff members, but staff members will not be allowed to reach into cars to help with backpacks or seat belts. (Parents should practice with their young children to help make car line run smoothly with these protocols.)

Parents, Visitors, and Deliveries

Each morning our efforts will be directed to helping students come into the building safely and swiftly. We are asking parents not to enter the building when students are arriving in the morning or leaving in the afternoon. (Exception: Parents of 4K and 5K students will be allowed to enter the building with their child 8:00-8:15am during the first two weeks of school.) This will limit the number of people that our students will encounter during these times.

- Parents may enter the building for previously scheduled appointments, or in emergencies. Parents must wear masks when entering the building, and they must have their temperature checked prior to entering.
- Other visitors such as Title 1 teachers, reading specialists, state inspectors, etc. coming to school must wear masks and have their temperature checked prior to entering.
- Delivery personnel are not allowed inside the building in most cases. Packages should be delivered to the vestibule at the school entrance. A member of the school staff will meet delivery personnel at that location.

School Day Protocols

- Zion will commit considerable time at the beginning of the year to the education of proper hygienic practices (hand-washing, mask-wearing, etc.) along with intentional time spent on social/emotional wellness.
- Masks must be worn in the building when students are outside of the classroom, and whenever six feet distancing is not possible.
- Mask wearing in the classroom will be at the discretion of the teacher. However, when six feet social distancing cannot be maintained, masks must be worn.
- Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing will be done when entering and exiting the classroom and often in many other situations.
- When students arrive in the morning, after completing the wellness protocol, they will go directly to their classroom.
- If, for any reason, a student needs to go to the school office, the student must ask permission from the classroom teacher. One student will be allowed in the school office at a time. Six feet social distancing will be maintained.
- The number of students using the restrooms at the same time will be limited.
- Students must provide their own labeled water bottle. Water bottle filling functions on water fountains will be operable, but students will not be able to drink from the drinking fountains (bubblers).
- Everyone will need to bring their own snacks. Any food served to groups (ex: birthday treats) must come prepackaged in individual portions by the supplier.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classroom instead of in the cafeteria. We anticipate that lunch will still be available for order from the Hamilton School District, although we do not yet know what modifications will be necessary in our lunch contract with the District. Half-pints of milk will be available for students as they have been in the past.
- There will be no field trips during the first semester.
- There will be no Fall Musical.
- Other large school-wide events usually held during the first semester (Race for Education, Children's Christmas Service, etc.) may be changed in consideration for the safety of our school community.
- First semester parent-teacher conferences will be held as scheduled, with social distancing protocols for the safety of everyone involved.

- Fall sports (volleyball and cross country) may or may not happen, depending on decisions yet to be made by MLESAA.
- Recess will be held outside as much as possible. Students will receive instruction and guidance on limiting touching and physical interaction while at play.
- Physical Education (PE) classes will be held outside as much as possible. PE activities will be planned to limit physical interaction and allow for social distancing as much as possible.
- Music classes will be modified to limit vocal music activities until the pandemic subsides.
- Middle school band will provide individual lessons as in the past, but group band will be modified to allow for greater social distancing (ex: holding group band in the gym, or creating smaller ensemble groupings in place of one large group.)

Cleaning Protocols

- All student desks and tables will be disinfected at the end of each day, using Quat spray, and at any other time that is deemed necessary.
- Desks and tables will be cleaned using Quat spray before and after eating.
- All rooms and hallways will be disinfected after school each day using a commercial sprayer and Diamond Disinfectant/Sanitizer/Virucide spray.

Chapel

Chapel will be held on Wednesdays, as in the past, but in a split format. Students in grades 4-8 will have chapel 8:10-8:45am. Students in grades 4K-3 will have chapel 9:00-9:35am. Everyone must wear a mask for chapel. Students will sit with their class for chapel—the practice of sitting in chapel families will be suspended for now. Six feet social distancing will be practiced as much as possible.

Illness Protocols

- No one should come to school if they are ill.
- Should someone become ill while at school, he/she will be required to go home. Parents must pick up ill children within one hour after receiving a phone call from the school office.
- If someone is ill, he/she should not return to school until they have been symptom-free for at least 48 hours without the help of medication.

COVID-19 Infections

- All families will be notified if a Zion student or staff member is infected with COVID-19. The identity of the infected person will not be revealed, but general information (staff person vs. student in grade 6, etc.) will be provided so that families are informed. We will also provide information about the steps being taken, such as closing a classroom for cleaning, switching to virtual schooling for a period of time to allow appropriate quarantining, etc.

- If someone has been in close contact* with a person who has COVID-19, he/she should stay away from school (quarantine) for 14 days from the last date of exposure. (*Close contact is defined as direct physical contact such as a hug, kiss, or handshake; spending 15 minutes or more at a distance of less than six feet; being sneezed or coughed on; or sharing personal items such as a glass, food or towel.)
- If someone has COVID-19 symptoms, they are encouraged to take a COVID-19 test. If their test is negative, they can return to school immediately. If their test is positive, they must stay away from school (isolation) for at least 10 days minimum, and until they are free of fever, cough, and extreme fatigue for at least 24 hours without the help of medication. Written clearance from a medical doctor or the Health Department, or a negative COVID-19 test result are required for return to school.
- Students missing school due to illness will be given their assignments by their teachers. Students with extended absences due to COVID-19 infection or COVID-19 exposure will have opportunity to receive recorded instruction from their teacher.

Social Contract

In order for our school to remain open, with in-person instruction, it is important that all of us work together to limit exposure risks as much as possible. This means wearing a mask in public, keeping our social circles small, being careful about the public venues we may visit, avoiding travel to COVID-19 “hot zones”, and being diligent not to send children to school when they are symptomatic or have had direct contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, especially household members and caregivers.

As we near the start of school, you will receive more information on daily procedures and protocols. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Our plan is designed to reduce the risks of COVID-19 virus transmission. The plan does not guarantee that students or their families will be totally protected from COVID-19 exposure. If you are not comfortable with the level of risk under this plan, it may be necessary for you to consider other schooling alternatives.

This is a very unusual time for our students, staff, and families, and we very much appreciate everyone’s help and support as we work to keep our school and community safe and healthy.

Please feel free to contact us for further information. Thank you!

Matthew Pankow
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Zion Lutheran School