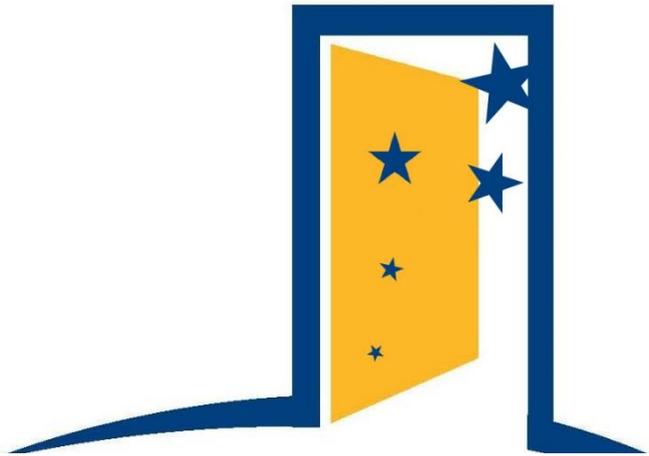




Zion Lutheran School

Christ-Centered, Classical Education

**PARENTS'
GUIDE TO
REOPENING!**



JULY 9, 2020

Dear Zion Parents,

Greetings in Christ! The start of a new year is coming and will soon be upon us! After a quarter of distance learning, I am pleased to announce that Zion will open its doors for its 90th year of school!

On multiple fronts, the year 2020 has thus far proven to be one for the record books – especially in the area of education. The steps taken to mitigate virus spread had reached unprecedented levels, reaching nationwide school facility shutdowns. The transition to distance learning was a tough one, and while I am satisfied that our teachers and students performed better than many of our counterparts, I do know that the end of the 2019-2020 year was something we do not hope to repeat. God created man to be social creatures – we suffer socially and emotionally when we are deprived of our peers!

The Zion administration, Board of Education, and teaching staff have been working hard this summer to enable Zion to reopen and still be able to provide the high quality education that you have come to expect. We do take the virus seriously and will be very proactive where we can to deter virus spread among our school population.

With clear procedures in place and with God's continued blessings, I am confident that we're going to be able to start the year strong! I know it will be a joyful reunion when students and staff can reunite after being apart so long! Our theme this year is *Faith Over Fear* – and we're going to be learning more about all the good that our heavenly Father blesses us with daily and how to rely on our God-given faith to counter the fear and anxiety that we may encounter in our lives.

It's going to be a great year! I look forward to seeing you all soon!

In Christ, Principal Splittgerber

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OPERATIONAL ZONES

Tiered Responses

The following factors will be considered for movement from one tier to the next

Green DHM Phase IV Low Risk	Yellow DHM Phase III Moderate Risk	Orange DHM Phase II Elevated Risk	Red-- DHM Phase I Pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No confirmed cases within the buildings • No Directed Health Measures that limit the school building capacity • Traditional/Normal school protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed case(s) in building • Consultation with Health Department • Directed Health Measures • Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed case(s) in building • Consultation with Health Department • Directed Health Measures • Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed case(s) in building • Consultation with Health Department • Directed Health Measures • Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance

Zion's daily operational zone will be guided by the following: Two Rivers Health Dept. COVID Risk Dial, local conditions, conditions within Zion itself. Zion's dial may differ from other schools based on a variety of conditions. For example,

conditions within an individual KPS school may prompt them to go to orange or red phase based on COVID spread, while Zion remains at yellow.

Zion is addressing these specific items as a response to local COVID-19 conditions:

- Social distancing strategies
- Health Screening Procedures
- Deep Cleaning and Disinfecting Efforts

SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES

- PARENTS & VISITORS
 - In yellow phase, parents and scheduled visitors will be allowed in the building but masks will be required.
 - In orange phase, parents must schedule visits; outside visitors will not be allowed.
 - In both yellow and orange phases, parents and visitors must stop to have their temperature scanned at the office.
- STUDENTS
 - Students will remain in class cohorts (the group that they will be with for the bulk of the school day).
 - Mixing of cohorts will be minimized.
 - RECESS: the playground will be split into distinct areas – class cohorts will be allowed to play on their area of the playground, but will not be allowed to mix with other class cohorts.
 - CHAPEL: class cohorts will distance from each other – no family groups this year.
 - LUNCH: the traditional whole school lunch time will be split into two lunch periods when in yellow. Pre-K thru grade

3 will eat together and will be spaced out in the gym. Grades 4-8 will eat together, socially distanced. In orange phase, classes will eat in their rooms.

- MUSIC: In yellow phase, classes will still transition to the music room, but transition-mixing will be eliminated by revised transition procedures. Music instruments and devices will not be shared by consecutive classes without disinfecting. In orange phase, Mrs. Arehart will travel to each classroom for music.
- SEATING: In yellow phase, teachers will be encourage to observe greater distancing of students in the classroom. Use of individual supplies will be encouraged. In orange phase, student desks will be separated into rows and will all face the same direction. Sharing of materials will be strongly discouraged.
- When necessary, teachers will move and students stay in the same rooms.
-

PROCEDURES & PPE

FACE MASKS

- Students will be required to wear face masks during arrival, dismissal, restroom breaks, and at other times where mixing with other class cohorts is unavoidable.
- Face masks will not be required in the classroom. Students will be allowed to wear masks in the classroom, but will not be required to. We believe very strongly that in order to foster positive social/emotional growth

and development students need to see each other's faces and expressions.

- Families are asked to provide facemasks that can be worn for arrival, dismissal, and other potentially needed times. These should be around-the-ear (not requiring ties) and comfortable for the child.
- Face masks for children can be purchased in packs at Target, Old Navy, and other places. One school uniform outlet also sells high-quality children's face-masks:
 - <https://www.globalschoolwear.com/masks>
 - Masks should follow school dress code and be solid-colored.
- Zion will hopefully have some masks on hand for students that need them. However, many of these are fairly industrial and will not provide much in the way of student comfort.
- Preschool & Pre-K students will only wear masks at arrival and dismissal. Their masks should be removed and left their top cubby until dismissal time.
- All masks should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

ARRIVAL

- Parents are asked to check their children's temperature BEFORE school! Do not bring your child if they have an elevated temp!
- Students must wear masks at arrival to minimize cohort mixing.
- The Fellowship Hall will not be used this year for before-school study hall.
- Students will proceed directly to their classrooms for screening. Students may not arrive before 7:45. Classrooms will be open for students from 7:45-8:15 a.m.
 - Screening: Once in the classroom, the students will have their body temperature scanned by the teacher using a touchless thermometer. Students

with temps over 100.4°F. will be sent to the office for a secondary scan. If the fever is confirmed, the student will be sent home and will not return to the class cohort. A second temp scan will be done in the second half of a full school day.

- Handwashing/Sanitizing: Once the thermal scan has cleared, all students will sanitize hands using the provided alcohol-based sanitizer or may use soap and water in the classroom sink.
- Masks may now be removed by the student.

DISMISSAL

- Students must wear a mask during building dismissal.
- Teachers will keep classes together in their cohort to avoid mixing as students wait for their rides.

SCHEDULED HANDWASHING/SANITIZING

- All classes will observe regular handwashing/sanitizing times, most notably at arrival and esp. upon return from out-of classroom times (e.g. music, lunch, recess).



WATER FOUNTAINS

- Zion has long advocated use of individual water bottles in the classroom. Good hydration is essential for optimal brain and body functioning!
- While Zion is in yellow or orange phases, use of the water fountain will be prohibited.
- Zion is looking to retrofit our water fountains to fill water bottles. If this becomes a reality, the dispensers will be cloroxed regularly.

SHARING

- Zion will keep each student's belongings separated as much as possible making use of any of the following: individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, desks, or lockers.
- Zion will work to ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment, etc. assigned to a single student) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Students will avoid sharing of foods and utensils.
- Students will void sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
- Families are discouraged from bringing materials/toys from home.

DEEP CLEANING & DISINFECTING STRATEGIES

- *Cleaning* is physically removing dirt, debris, and sticky film by washing, wiping, and rinsing.
- *Disinfecting* kills nearly all germs on a hard, non-porous surface when applied correctly. Prior to disinfecting, cleaning must be completed. Note: Disinfecting is different than sanitizing.
- *Sanitizing* is the reduction of bacteria to safe levels as set by public health standards. It is required for any surface that comes in contact with food.
- The following will be disinfected at least daily:
 - Playground equipment
 - Door and cabinet handles
 - Sink handles



- Shared objects (e.g., toys, games, art supplies) should be cleaned in between uses.
- Zion has taken steps to insure proper ventilation. Zion has had air-scrubbers installed that utilize air ionization to literally clean the air!
- Zion classrooms will also receive an additional layer of disinfection utilizing UV (+ozone) lamps that will be operated safely after-hours.

WHEN COVID STRIKES! STUDENTS & STAFF



- If a student becomes ill while at school:
 - Zion will provide an isolated space for the ill student to rest while waiting for the arrival of parent/guardian.
 - Zion will contact the student's parent/guardian to pick up the student as soon as possible.
 - Staff person, wearing PPE, will stay with the student while awaiting parent/guardian's arrival.
 - Zion will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use before cleaning and disinfection.
 - Zion will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student identities will be protected!
- Sick children/staff will not return to school until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation as prescribed them by their doctor.
- Those with fever cannot return to school for 72 hours or proof of wellness.

DISTANCE LEARNING

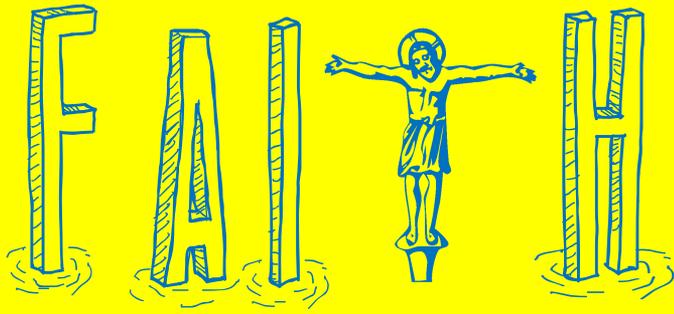
In the case that community/building conditions reach RED phase, which is wide-spread pandemic conditions, Zion will revert to a distance learning format. Now that Zion has already been through this process once, teachers will now be preparing students for the possibility of online learning.

Distance learning will utilize the following:

- Learning packets
- Google Classroom.
- Regular Zoom meetings
 - Please note that we will now be asking students to always follow the following online meeting etiquette:
 - Videos must be on, with the student's face clearly visible.
 - Students' should raise hands to contribute during a virtual session.
 - Students' should remain on mute until invited to speak by the teacher.

Zion has received funding for remote learning prep and will be investing in updating educational technology including the following:

- New teacher laptops
- Document cameras
- Chromebooks. It is our goal for 1:1 Chromebooks in grades 4-8. Zion's stance on technology has not changed – we believe very firmly that in regards to digital technology in the classroom – less is more! However, we are adapting our tech usage to better prepare students for the transition to remote learning.



OVER

FEAR

“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not
be dismayed, for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9