

## **Plans for Returning to School 2021-2022 for Face-to-Face Instruction**

It is the goal of the Bethlehem Lutheran School Board to have students and teachers in the building beginning on **Wednesday, August 18** for face-to-face instruction. The ongoing health and safety of students and staff remains paramount. Toward that end a number of plans and procedures based on CDC, State and Greene County Health Department are in place for the safety and health of students and staff.

### *Health and Safety Plans Finished or in Process in our Physical Building:*

1. Drinking fountains remain closed.
2. Two water bottle filling stations are available in the building.
3. Bathrooms have automatic lights, motion detected urinals, touchless soap dispensers, touchless faucets, and touchless paper towel dispensers.
4. Touchless hand sanitizing stations are located in each classroom and common spaces.
5. Students will regularly wash and/or sanitize hands during the school day.

### *What the Day Will Be Like*

1. Parents will a wellness check of their child before sending students to school.
2. Students will enter through our normal school entrance. Temperatures may be taken.
3. Students will report directly to their classroom.
4. We are creating 3 pods as closed cohorts within the school. The pods are K-Gr. 2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8.
5. Classroom desks are set at 3 foot intervals to accomplish moderate social distancing for teacher and students.
6. The CDC recommendations, *'everyone in K-12 schools wear masks indoors, including teachers, and students, regardless of vaccination.'* At this time, Bethlehem Lutheran School will allow parents to make a decision on whether or not their child will wear a mask.
7. Visitors are restricted to the school office area and not to the classroom areas.

### *Lunch and Recess*

1. We will begin the school year having no heat-ups for students.
2. Moderate 3 foot social distancing is set up in the lunchroom with students facing in one direction and not across the table from each other.
3. Students will have 2 recess periods outside each day.
4. One door will be used to exit the building and another to reenter the building.
5. Students will wash and/or sanitize hands after recess play.

### *Cleaning*

1. All classrooms will be sanitized twice during the week.
2. Extra time will be scheduled by teachers for proper handwashing.

### *Chapel and Teaching*

1. Chapel will be attended by about 1/2 of the student body each week. All other students will be able to view chapel on churchstreamer.org. We hope to create Faith Families as the year progresses.
2. Classroom teachers may optionally wear face masks and/or face shields as they teach.
3. Each classroom has individual desks for students facing in the same direction.
4. Students will have individual supplies and books to use for class projects.
5. Teachers may arrange for instruction in the classroom and work time outside.
6. Gym classes will be held outside whenever possible.

### *Ventilation*

1. Bethlehem uses special HEPA filter in all furnaces.
2. We are planning to use EANS federal money to add air purifiers to the furnace units or in the individual classrooms.
3. are looking into adding air purifiers

### *Ill Students or Staff*

1. Each classroom has a touchless digital thermometer to check temperatures during the school day. Should a child have a temperature over 100, they will be sent to the school office.
2. Sick students in the school office will be put in isolation in the Conference Room until someone can take them home.
3. Students sent home from school will need to be 24 hour fever free (without the use of medicine) before they can return to school.
4. Should a student be confirmed with a case of COVID-19, Bethlehem must contact Greene County Public Health Department (GCPH) and abide by the regulations set up by GCHD.

### *Extended Care*

4. Bethlehem is planning to offer Extended Care before and after school.
5. Morning Care will begin at 7:00 am.
6. Afterschool Care ends by 5:45 pm.

### *Bus Riders*

1. The CDC continues to require that masks be worn on all public transportation, including school buses.

### Next Steps

We will provide additional information and updates to parents through FastDirect email, our website, and One Call Now phone messages as our procedures and landscapes changes.

It's not a perfect plan. It doesn't meet everyone's needs. It doesn't include every detail or nuance that will happen. It is not set in stone. BUT, it will get us started in the new school year with face-to-face instruction.

We don't know what the future really holds. We don't know if our plans will be perfectly right. But we do know that our God is with us and for us. He will not leave us or forsake us. God will be with us as we follow Him into the new school year. Christ is *in all things* even our new school year.