

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
RE-OPENING PLAN
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Mission Statement:

Trinity Lutheran Church and School exists to provide the highest quality education in a Christ and family centered environment.

Trinity Lutheran School is committed to providing a Christian education which expands the mind, nurtures the soul and shapes character. As we continue to navigate this new learning curve for all grades, we remain committed to preserving our academic integrity and academic excellence while maintaining the health and safety of each student and faculty member. The coronavirus has changed our world, but it has not changed the mission of Trinity Lutheran School.

The administration and faculty of Trinity Lutheran School have engaged in consultation and discussion with the Union County Health Department, school board, and stakeholders as well as reviewed the Ohio Department of Education guidelines on the question of how to safely reopen the school. As you can imagine, there is no consensus on many details. **Yet, we do believe that a reasonable and safe approach is contained in this plan which will allow us to begin school on the regularly scheduled August 19 date with students in our school full time.** At this time, the school board does not plan to make any changes to the school calendar. This plan has considered the best interest of our students while trying to balance that with the best interest of our Trinity community, including families, faculty and staff. Our goal of Trinity is to provide as much school normalcy as we possibly can while staying safe. **Our plan is always subject to change but we feel it is better to be more restrictive at the beginning then loosen up, if we can, rather than trying to tighten up later.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently published guidance for the reopening of schools; key ideas from their report include:

- “The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with the goal of having students physically present in school. No child should be excluded from school unless required to adhere to local public health mandates or because of unique medical needs.”
- “School policies must be flexible and nimble. They should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for a child and adolescent’s developmental stage.”

The Ohio Department of Education recently published their Reset and Restart Plan outlining key points:

- “Schools will need to have the capacity to operate in various modes at different times and, sometimes, with minimum advance notice.”
- “When schools are operating with students in the building, they will need to adhere to health and safety guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments. Guidelines may change as circumstances change, which most likely should lead to course corrections throughout the year. “
- “The traditional school experience as it was known prior to the onset of the pandemic will be different, as will many of the day-to-day practices of schools. “
- “Teaching Students Health and Safety Practices: It is important to note that expected health practices will require new learned behaviors by students.”

The following plan outlines the initial safety strategies Trinity will have in place beginning August 19, 2020 when students return to school. This plan is not exhaustive and does not address every aspect of the school day. Additionally, this plan is subject to change, at any time, as we continually evaluate positive or negative changes to the outbreak. While the school will be extremely vigilant on enforcement and ask for the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete mitigation of risk will take place. The virus is not going away any time soon, therefore, this is Trinity Lutheran School's plan to continue the vital work of Christian education in an environment that recognizes the real need for precautions.

SYMPTOMS, EXPOSURE, AND POSITIVE TEST PROTOCOL FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL

SECTION 1: SYMPTOM SCREENING:

All students, staff, and volunteers must self-screen, with the help of parents or a caregiver, when appropriate, before leaving home each school day for the following symptoms. A person shall not come to school under any circumstances if he/she displays any one of the following as these can indicate a possible illness which may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading an illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- A body temperature of 100.4 or higher any time in the previous 24 hours
- Persistent cough, sore throat or new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing. (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, this could be a change in their cough from baseline)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Chills
- Loss of taste or smell
- New onset of a severe headache, especially with a fever

Any person determined by a staff person to meet these criteria during the school day will be immediately sent home or placed in the quarantine area at school until they are taken home. It is required that parents make immediate arrangements for the pick-up of a child presenting any of these symptoms. The student would be excused from school until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

SECTION 2: CLOSE CONTACT / POTENTIAL EXPOSURE SCREENING:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person confirmed with COVID-19
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- Live in areas of high community transmissions

If a student, parent, caregiver or staff member answers YES to any question in Section 1 and Section 2, they should be referred for an evaluation by their healthcare provider for possible testing.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to stay home, isolate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from the Union County Health Department. Students and their families should be advised that the Union County Health Department may contact the family and school for contact tracing. If contacted, families should notify the contract tracer that the student attended school.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

In accordance with the CDC, students diagnosed with COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school after:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- At least 24 hours with no fever and without the aid of a fever-reducing medication **AND**
- Symptoms have improved

Trinity Lutheran school will communicate with the Union County Health Department when a student or staff person has tested positive for COVID-19 and will fully cooperate with their guidance.

FACE COVERING/MASKING/SHIELDING

The use of face covering will be dependent on a variety of factors. Trinity School understands that face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in an all-day setting such as school. The following will be implemented in accordance with our intention to balance the best possible educational environment with the safest working environment: **WE must all do our part to protect each student, staff and family member within our Trinity community and Union county.** While we know that there are varying opinions about wearing masks, we feel that the best practice, for the start of the year, is to have all students and staff wear masks in the building and classroom.

- All students in grades KP-6 will wear face masks while in the hallways and classrooms. Mask breaks will be given throughout the day as directed by the teachers. Students who are unable to wear a face mask due to health or developmental reasons must present a medical excuse to the Principal. A face shield will then be required. (parent provided)
- Students in Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten are not required to wear masks but are permitted to do so
- All staff will wear a combination of face masks and/or shields throughout the day, while in the building, unless they are unable to do so due to health reasons. (medical excuse required)
- When outside, students and staff are permitted to remove masks but should maintain 6 ft social distancing
- Parents must provide their child with their own masks and face shield

Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin can be considered as an alternative where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process. Some situations where face shields would be useful include:

- When interacting with students, such as those with disabilities, where communication could be impacted
- When interacting with English-language learners or when teaching a foreign language
- Settings where cloth masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs)
- For individuals who have difficulty wearing a cloth face covering

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household
- Following the AAP guidelines, students' desks will be placed up to 6’ apart. Current class sizes allow for this in every classroom. All desks will face the same direction. Seating will not be arranged to form tables in which students face each other. Students will be encouraged to maintain distancing.
- When possible, the sharing of supplies among students will be avoided. When supplies are shared, they will be disinfected between uses.
- Six feet of distancing between students and adults will be maintained when at all possible

HAND HYGIENE

Regular hand washing and sanitizing are among the most effective ways to control viral spread. Students will have regular access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

- All classrooms and common spaces such as cafeteria and gym will have hand sanitizer stations available to students and staff. Students will be encouraged to use it regularly.
- Rooms without sinks will have easy access to restroom sinks
- Students will be expected to wash their hands before and after lunch, before and after recess, and after using the restroom
- Instruction and reminders on handwashing will be provided by staff. Signs, announcements, and other methods will be used to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF OF KINDERPREP THROUGH 6TH GRADE STUDENTS (MASKS REQUIRED)

The school doors will open for KinderPrep through 6th grade students at 8:30. Children will not be permitted in the building before 8:30 unless they are signed into the Latchkey program. Upon dismissal, we are asking all students to leave the school grounds immediately. One of Trinity's great community opportunities for parents is during student pick-up time. It is an opportunity to see other parents and students and connect with a teacher. However, to limit the number of people in the building, until the coronavirus outbreak passes, parents will need to remain outside of the building while their child comes to them.

- Drop off and pick up points will be in front of the school and the back-alley doors to the cafeteria for grades KinderPrep through 6th grade
- Parents dropping off their student in front of the school will be required to park their car before allowing the child to get out or in. Parents are not permitted to stop in the middle of Walnut street at any time during pick-up and drop-off.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF OF PRESCHOOL AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS (PARENT MASKS REQUIRED)

The school doors will open for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten at 8:50. Children will not be permitted in the building before 8:50 unless they are signed into the Latchkey program. For dismissal, parents will wait outside their assigned entrance for the teachers to bring the child to them. Parents will not be permitted in the building for pick-up and we are asking all families to leave the school grounds immediately following. Please be on-time so the children feel safe, secure and confident with their school experience.

- Preschool students will enter through the church doors off Walnut street. It will be the glass doors that have a ramp attached. For the first two weeks parents will be permitted to bring their 3-year old child into the building. Parents must wear a mask and maintain social distancing from other parents. After the two-week transition period, we would like the parents to drop their child off at the door and not enter the building. The administration will continue to monitor and evaluate the drop off process for our Early Childhood students.
- Pre-Kindergarten students will enter through the church doors off the back alley where there is an overhang. For the first two weeks parents will be permitted to bring their 4-year old child into the building. Parents must wear a mask and maintain social distancing from other parents. After the two-week transition period, we would like the parents to drop their child off at the door and not enter the building. The administration will continue to monitor and evaluate the drop off process for our Early Childhood students

RECESS

Play is an essential component of a child's development. We also know that the risk of viral spread is significantly lower outside. Recess will be outdoors whenever the weather allows for it.

- Distancing requirements will be encouraged, although the teachers will apply common sense
- Students will be required to wash/sanitize hands before and after recess

FIELD TRIPS

The use of field trips will be dependent upon the operating status of the organization and if students are able to maintain safety precautions and procedures.

TRANSPORTATION

The Marysville school district will dictate policies for transporting students to and from school. Trinity students riding the bus will adhere to these policies.

CUB AND TIGER CARE (LATCHKEY)

Trinity will continue to provide cub and tiger care for registered families while following the set regulations from the Ohio Department of Education. This may require specific programmatic changes to be made. Cub and Tiger Care will adhere to all safety policies and procedures set forth by Trinity Lutheran School.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING PRACTICES

Although the primary method of coronavirus transmission is through respiratory means, clean surfaces and environments play an important role also.

- Daily cleaning and sanitizing by the school's cleaning company will take place with safe disinfectants labeled for use against SARS-CoV-2 or on an EPA approved list of cleaners, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces like door handles, lockers, desks, and shared materials.
- All classrooms and common spaces will have access to cleaning supplies. Classrooms will be disinfected at mid-day, end of day and throughout the day as needed.
- Interior doors will be propped open during transitions and whenever else it is practical to avoid significant touching by multiple people

CAFETERIA

At the start of the school year, all students will be expected to pack their lunch. Trinity will not be providing a cooked lunch or brown bag lunch at this time.

- Lunch boxes will be kept in the student's locker
- Staff will not be permitted to cook or warm up any student's food
- Parents should provide the necessary items to keep a student food cold or hot (ice pack, thermos)
- Pop is not permitted during school hours with their lunch
- Milk will be provided at cost
- Parents should provide healthy lunch meals for their child and items that can be easily opened by the child

INSTRUCTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THOSE OUT OF SCHOOL

All teachers will create digital access to their curriculum. Assignments, lesson plans, videos, etc. will be posted to this platform throughout the year. If a student is out of school for an extended period due to illness, teachers will continue to provide instruction to that student through google.

POTENTIAL FLARE-UPS PROCEDURES: PER THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

It is expected there will be “flare-ups” of COVID-19 cases as determined by the Ohio Department of Health or local health departments. Flare-ups will need to be addressed by implementing additional measures beyond ongoing precautions. In some cases, entire school buildings may need to close for purposes of cleaning and sanitizing or in recognition of high levels of student or staff illness. In the event of a flare-up, Trinity will follow additional precautions set forth by the Ohio Department of Health and their local health departments. These precautions may change frequently, and Trinity will maintain frequent communication with the Union County Health Departments regarding these guidelines.

“IN PERSON LEARNING” ADDITIONAL POINTS:

- Do not send your child to school if they are sick
- No parents/visitors permitted in the building
- Face Masks are required by all students and staff members
- Assigned entrances/stairs
- Daily Symptom Assessment health check should be completed at home
- Hand sanitizers at each entrance and at each classroom door
- Decreased class sizes to allow for 6ft social distance between desks
- Hallway floors marked with visual signs to help with 6 ft distancing and direction to reduce congregating
- Quarantine room across from office
- Use of outdoor space / and cafeteria as much as possible
- Kitchen closed – all students pack – Milk will be provided at cost
- Water fountains closed and blocked off (students will need to bring their own water bottles)

DIGITAL LEARNING

Trinity Lutheran School remains committed to its mission statement: "To provide the highest quality education in a Christ centered and family environment." Should our "in person learning" switch to digital learning, our Early Childhood through 6th grade teaching staff will continue to present the adopted planned curriculum as it aligns with the Ohio Department of Education content standards. Classroom curriculum and instruction will be delivered through a variety of platforms such as hands on packets, e-learning, google classroom, and seesaw (on-line program). Parents will be expected to continue with all scheduled tuition payments.