

Faith Academy's Plan for Re-opening

In-class learning will resume on September 8th for students in all public and independent schools across the province.

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.
- Students in Grades 9 to 12 will return for at least two days of in-class instruction per week - allowing for appropriate physical distancing.
- Grade level cohorts will be used in K to 12 to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to ensure documentation for contact tracing.
- Students with special needs in all grades will have the opportunity to return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.

Teachers and staff will return to schools on September 2, 3, and 4, to provide an opportunity for orientation to public health requirements and the educational priorities to support students, as well as professional learning around recovery learning.

Public Health Orders and Guidance

- Up-to-date information regarding public health orders and guidance for schools will be distributed to the school offices by the Superintendent on a regular basis. The information will then be posted throughout the school buildings as appropriate and disseminated to families and staff via email communication. The school administration will be responsible to monitor and ensure that the guidance and orders are followed.
- Key considerations will include:
 - self-screening for symptoms and a strict expectation that students and staff will stay home when sick
 - a strong recommendation that students from grades 5 to 12 and all staff wear non-medical masks in common areas and when 2 meters of physical distancing is not possible
 - touchless refilling of water bottles only - no drinking from water fountains
 - restricted visits to the school offices by parents/guardians - please call the offices if you have questions or concerns
 - grade level cohorts in K to 12 to reduce the risk of transmission and to ensure documentation for contact tracing
 - hand sanitizing stations throughout the school buildings and encouragement for students and staff to use them
 - signage highlighting the importance of handwashing and how to do it well
 - signage highlighting physical distancing expectations including floor markings to identify spacing and direct foot traffic flow
 - increased cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day

School Day Structure

As Faith Academy plans to welcome students back, we do so knowing that plans may need to change based on the advice of public health. Contingency plans will be put in place for various public health situations. Three response levels will be used: Level 1 – In-class Learning (planned for September 2020); Level 2: Blended Learning and Level 3: Remote Learning.

LEVEL 1 - In-Class Learning

- **K - 8**

- Students from K - 8 will attend school five days per week (full days).
- Entrances will be designated for smaller groups of students with a separate entrance for K-2 / 3-4 / 5-6 / 7-8.
- Student desks will be spread throughout classrooms to establish a minimum of 1m of physical distancing.
- Plastic barriers will be used to separate younger students sitting at tables.
- Students will remain in their classroom except to take part in recess and physical education.
- Students will be dismissed in smaller groups for recess - K-2 / 3-4 / 5-6 / 7-8. Each grade level cohort will have a designated play area.
- Washrooms will be designated for smaller groups of students with a separate set of washrooms for K-2 / 3-4 / 5-6 / 7-8.
- Efforts will be made to provide students that are not able to attend in-class instruction due to pre-existing health conditions which put them at greater risk of severe COVID-19 complications with the resources necessary to continue their learning at home. This will include the use of Google Classroom, Seesaw, and/or Class Dojo. Please contact your child's principal if he/she has pre-existing health conditions.

- **9 - 12**

- Students from 9 - 12 will attend school at least two days per week (full days).
- High school students will be separated into two groups that will attend on alternate days in order to manage the number of students making use of entrances and washrooms.
- Student desks will be spread throughout classrooms to establish a minimum of 1m of physical distancing.
- Plastic barriers will be used to separate students sitting at tables.
- Teachers will make use of Google Classroom to allow learning to continue on the days when the high school students do not attend in person.

- **Students with Special Needs**

- Students with special needs in all grades will have the opportunity to return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.
- The school principals and resource teachers will be in contact with families to determine a plan that will work for the needs of each student.

LEVEL 2 - Blended Learning

- Students from K-12 will be invited to the school at least once per week.
- K-8 teachers will prepare lessons focusing on core curriculum using a combination of physical materials and technological resources such as Google Classroom, Seesaw, and/or Class Dojo.
- 9-12 teachers will use Google Classroom to facilitate ongoing learning in all required courses.
- Students that need access to technology will be able to borrow a Chromebook from the school.
- The time students spend at school will be focused on interpersonal connections and academic assessments.

LEVEL 3 - Remote Learning

- Schools will be closed to the public and students will not report.
- Students that need access to technology will be able to borrow a Chromebook from the school.
- K-12 teachers will prepare lessons focusing on literacy, numeracy, and Bible using physical materials and technological resources such as Google Classroom, Seesaw, and/or Class Dojo.
- Teachers will focus on regular communication and interactions with students and families in an effort to keep students engaged in learning.

Specialty Programming

- Computer lab usage will be limited to avoid the potential of spread from one class of students to another.
- Computers, Chromebooks, and Ipads will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Some elective courses in high school will be cancelled in order to preserve the cohort groupings. Students will have the opportunity to earn 8 credits in the 2020/2021 school year.
- In-person chapels, intramurals, and house activities will be cancelled.
- Sports programming will follow the advice of public health and the various associations that govern sports in Manitoba.
- Efforts will be made to sanitize equipment used during physical education classes in addition to minimizing the use of the same equipment by multiple classes of students.

School Transportation

- Parents are asked to drive their children to school in order to lessen the demand for transportation services.
- Students in grades 5 to 12 as well as all bus drivers will be required to wear a non-medical mask when riding on the bus. Students in younger grades can wear a non-medical mask if they want to.
- Priority will be given to the transportation of students in K-8. High school students will be asked to find alternative ways to get to school.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands when they get on and off the bus.
- Students will sit with siblings or other students from their grade level cohort.
- Busses will be sanitized after each run.

Recovery Learning

- Teachers will have the opportunity to meet together to identify students that require recovery learning as a result of the suspension of in-class learning.
- Teachers will be encouraged to spend the start of the year focusing on recovery learning and review.
- For students with recovery learning needs that are significant, resource teachers will be asked to support the classroom teachers.

Mental Health

- Efforts will be made to encourage students and staff on a regular basis - acknowledging the various challenges that exist due to COVID-19.
- COVID-19 protocols and expectations will be communicated gently so that the school can continue to be viewed as a warm and welcoming environment.
- Clinician services will focus on the mental health and well-being of teachers and students upon re-opening.
- Having students attend school as often as possible is an intentional effort to address the mental health and well-being of students.