



2020-2021 School Reentry Plan

Full Version

The 2020-2021 school year is set to begin on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The health and safety of our students and staff is the top priority when reopening our school for in-person learning. Since the coronavirus remains with us, the return to school will look different. Grace Lutheran School families, students, and staff will need to be flexible and nimble, understanding that the procedures and plans may require changes in procedures and learning platforms, sometimes with minimal notice. Whatever the circumstances, we remain committed to our mission:

*Grace Lutheran School provides Christ-centered learning for Christ-centered living to strengthen faith, to love and to serve church and community for the glory of God.*

To best protect the health and safety of our school community, our school plans have been developed in consultation with local health officials, Grace Lutheran School staff, the Red River Lutheran School Association, COVID-19 Coordinating Team, and parent input.

Grace Lutheran School has prepared three learning platforms they will utilize during the 2020-2021 school year. In alignment with the North Dakota K-12 Smart Restart plans, the school will provide students with the learning platform that coincides with local conditions. While it is our goal to prepare and plan as best we possibly can, all plans are subject to change. Please note situations may arise where adjustments must be made quickly, therefore communication is key, and families are asked to regularly monitor email, social media, and the school communication app. Throughout the school year students may, at any time, be required to quickly transition from one learning platform to another.

- In-Person Learning with restrictions  
With enhanced disinfecting, health precautions, and distancing standards when possible, students are welcomed back into the school for in-person learning. The classroom teacher will provide direct instruction that supports and challenges each student in every classroom.
- Hybrid Learning  
Using digital technologies, live-stream and video cloud-based instruction will be available to access classes so students can participate, interact, and receive classroom instruction when staying home. A teacher will check in with students daily and communicate with families weekly on their student's progress. Weekly packet pickup for learning materials will be available, as well as digital resources through the school communication app. This plan is designed for the students excluded from school due to illness, quarantine, or other COVID-19 related reasons. Families may meet with the principal and their assigned classroom teacher to discuss the possibility of the student using this platform on a case by case basis. Families choosing to use the hybrid learning platform on their own must commit to the plan for the whole quarter. The principal reserves the right to deny students from participating in the hybrid learning platform.
- Remote Learning  
Student learning will be delivered using online and paper resources away from the school building. Using digital technologies, both live-stream and video cloud-based instruction will be available to access classes so students can participate, interact, and receive classroom instruction while at home. Teachers send a video each morning

describing the schedule and tasks for the day. Students participate in a whole group morning meeting each day. Students participate in small group video conference sessions with their teacher a minimum of 2 days each week. Weekly packet pickup for learning materials will be available, as well as digital resources through the school communication app. This plan is designed for situations when it becomes a state or local mandate to no longer provide in-person learning.

## Health and Safety Precautions and Practices

### Physical Distancing Strategies

- Classroom seating options will be arranged so children stay between 4-6 feet apart.
- Classrooms will remove non-essential materials/items to help accommodate adequate distancing.
- Lockers will be assigned, and children will access lockers in small groups focusing on every other locker and on a limited basis.
- Schedules will be staggered to minimize the overlap of classrooms in common areas such as the gym, playground, hallways, and the music room.
- Chapel services and assemblies will be modified to include distancing not only between the individual classroom children, but also the different classroom groups.

### Screening

When it comes to reentering school safely, we know that we need to work together. It will take everyone at Grace Lutheran School to develop a culture of health and safety by closely monitoring their children for signs of illness every day. The well-being of Grace Lutheran School hinges on everyone being diligent each morning and screening their children before coming to school. Your compliance is just one piece of what will help keep the classrooms open.

- Check your child's temperature before coming to school.
- Ask your child how they are feeling, note any signs or symptoms that may be consistent of COVID-19.
- Review the daily screening questions.
- Teachers, staff, and children may have their temperature checked at the door, as deemed necessary.

Further details regarding screening can be found at the end of this document.

### Handwashing and Hygiene

Staff will wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and will assist children in doing the same. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used if soap and water are not readily available. Children will be supervised when they use hand sanitizer. Posters describing proper hand washing procedures will be posted near all sinks. Children and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival
- When moving throughout the school
- Before and after preparing/eating/handling food or drinks

- Before and after administering medication
- After using the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluids
- After playing outdoors
- After handling garbage

#### Cleaning and Disinfecting

The following will be disinfected at least daily:

- Door and cabinet handles
- Light switches
- Sink handles
- Toilets
- Fronts of lockers
- Desks

The following will be disinfected after each use:

- Shared materials in the classroom
- Shared materials used during Morning Care and After Care

Other daily cleaning to be completed:

- Floors mopped
- Carpets vacuumed
- Garbages emptied

Books (from the library or classroom) will be removed from circulation for a period of three days after being returned by a student.

#### Limit Sharing

- Student's personal belongings will be separated and kept in individually labeled storage containers, lockers, or areas.
- Extra supplies will be available to minimize the sharing of high touch materials.
- The sharing of foods and utensils is prohibited.
- Sharing of electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids will be limited.

#### Lunchroom Procedures

- Food service workers will prepare plated trays for each student.
- Students will stand on designated spots while waiting for their tray to accommodate distancing.
- Students will have designated spots at the lunch tables to accommodate distancing.
- Teachers will stagger lunch times to limit crowding and accommodate adequate spacing and cleaning between groups.
- Students may bring a cold lunch from home.

### Restrooms

- Classrooms will stagger bathroom times to limit crowding and accommodate distancing.
- Restroom cleaning frequency will be increased.
- Sinks will be sanitized prior to being used for mealtime handwashing.
- There will be signs instructing students and staff on proper handwashing techniques.

### PE and Playground

- Physical distancing will be encouraged with non-contact sports and activities.
- Staff members will be responsible for ensuring regular cleaning and disinfecting of materials.
- PE will be outside when weather permits.
- Playground equipment is not sanitized or disinfected.

### Music/Band

- Music and Band will be held in the gym for adequate spacing.
- Groups will not be mixed.
- Children will sit in designated spaces, adequately spaced.
- Shared materials will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Children will wear masks during music when singing.

### Chapel

Chapel services will be modified to include distancing not only between the individual classroom children, but also the different classroom groups.

- Classrooms will stagger arrival and exit times.
- Classroom groups will have their own section to sit. Children will be spaced accordingly in their section.
- Chapel buddies will not be able to sit with one another, however they can support one another in other ways.
- Hymnals will not be in use; order of service and music will be projected onto the screen.
- Children will wear masks during chapel due to singing.

### Morning Care

As children are dropped off prior to the start of school, special precautions will be taken to accommodate distancing.

- Each classroom will have its own designated space in the gym where the children play.
- Shared materials will be cleaned after each use.
- Children who want to eat breakfast will sit in a designated spot at a designated table. The spot will be cleaned after each child has finished breakfast, so it is ready for another child.
- If a parent needs to bring their children into the building to drop off they must wear a mask while in the building.

### After Care

- Classrooms will stagger child drop off into the After Care room.
- Children will stay in their designated group.
- Materials will be cleaned after each use.

### Parents and Visitors

- Access to the school building will be limited. All visitors will be screened in the office.
- All visitors must wear a mask.
- Parents are welcome to walk their child to the front door, however we are asking that you do not walk them to their classrooms.

### Face Masks

At this time, face masks may be worn in the classrooms at staff and family discretion. Certain activities and/or situations will require children and staff to wear masks. Masks will be stored in a labeled paper bag when not in use. Please be mindful that this policy could change, pending state or local mandates.

- Students may wear face coverings with any type of print or color, as long as the content is not inappropriate, as determined by the principal.
- Please make sure your child has at least two clean masks at school at all times. Extra face masks will be available, as needed.
- Families are expected to wash face masks each night if reusable.
- Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.

Grace Lutheran School will provide information to staff and families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings (included at the end of the document).

### Transportation

Due to distancing concerns, the school van will not be used for fieldtrips. If a bus is needed to transport children to different events, children will sit staggered, using every other seat.

### Concerning Individuals Who are Sick, Suspected to have, or have Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

If a child, parent, or staff is sick, suspected to have, or has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the school will follow ND Department of Health and/or CDC guidelines regarding isolation, quarantine, and/or reentrance back into the school. By doing so, we can make sure we are always up to date on the most recent guidelines. Reentry is also up to the school's discretion.

If you or your child feels sick, is suspected to have, or has a confirmed case of COVID-19 please follow the guidelines listed:

What to do if you are sick:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

You may have been exposed to COVID-19:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Factsheet\\_for\\_People\\_Exposed\\_but\\_NOT\\_CC.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Factsheet_for_People_Exposed_but_NOT_CC.pdf)

You are being tested for COVID-19:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Fact\\_Sheet\\_for\\_People\\_Being\\_Community\\_Test.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Fact_Sheet_for_People_Being_Community_Test.pdf)

You are a close contact to someone who has COVID-19:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Factsheet\\_for\\_People\\_Who\\_are\\_Close\\_Contacts.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Factsheet_for_People_Who_are_Close_Contacts.pdf)

You have been confirmed to have COVID-19:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Factsheet\\_for\\_People\\_With\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Factsheet_for_People_With_COVID-19.pdf)

#### Students or Staff who Becomes Sick at School

Grace Lutheran School will immediately isolate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian. Masks are required to be worn in this area.

- The school will contact the student's parent/guardian to pick up the student as soon as possible.
- A staff person (wearing proper PPE) will monitor the student while awaiting parent/guardian arrival.
- The school will close off areas used by a symptomatic person and will clean and disinfect the area before returning students to that area.

Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Staff who feel sick during the school day will be excused from their class and a substitute will take over, as needed.

If your student has been identified as a close contact of someone who is positive, or if you have a confirmed case in your classroom, you will be notified by the school and/or local health officials. At that time further guidance will be provided.

If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case (students or staff) in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, Grace Lutheran School will work with local health officials to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening at school.

In the event there is more than one confirmed case and there is suspected in-school transmission, the school will work with local health officials regarding next steps. These steps could include, for example, making a decision to: a) close part of the school or the entire school for a short time (e.g., 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning, or b) close the school partially or fully for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.

#### Communication

We believe communication between families and Grace Lutheran School will strengthen the educational opportunities, experiences, and outcome for our students. Therefore, we will communicate important information in a clear, consistent, and timely manner to our

students, parents/families, staff, and community members. Grace Lutheran School will use the following types of communication throughout the year:

- Telephone
- Email
- Designated school app
- Social Media (<https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranSchoolFargo/>)
- Website (<http://gracelutheranschoolfargo.com/>)

Families are highly encouraged to frequently check their emails, voicemails, texts, and the school app.

### Screening Questions

Parents will be responsible for monitoring and screening their children each day before dropping off at school. Grace Lutheran School will screen employees and guests entering the facility each day upon arrival using the following questions\*.

1. Have you had any known contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
2. Have you had new onset of symptoms you feel are consistent with viral illness?
  - Fever of 100 or greater OR
  - Loss of taste or smell OR
  - Two or more of the following: runny nose/congestion, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, headache, chills, muscle/body aches, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.
3. Have you tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 10 days?

If the answer to all 3 screening questions is “no”, the person can enter the facility.

If the answer to any of the 3 screening questions is “yes”, the person should be directed to call their health care provider, if ill, or visit the ND Department of Health website for further guidance.

\*Screening questions may change without notice and are based off national and state guidelines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/Daily-Home-Screening-for-Students-Checklist-ACTIVE-rev5A.pdf>

### Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of novel coronavirus are fever and cough, sometimes difficulty breathing, fatigue, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, body/muscle aches, headache, chills, loss of taste/smell, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and nausea/vomiting.

These symptoms can also be due to many other illnesses. If you develop a fever or any symptoms, it does not mean you have COVID-19, but you should contact your health care provider.

Guidance for using, handling, storing, and cleaning masks:

- Masks should be labeled with the individual’s name with a permanent marker.
- Wash or sanitize your hands before you put on your mask or after you take it off or adjust it.
- Try not to touch your mask when wearing it.
- Put the mask on and adjust it properly before entering a classroom or before coming within 6 feet of another adult or child.

- Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, mouth or the inside of the mask when putting on their mask, adjusting their mask or removing their mask.
- Fold the mask in half, face side together after removing the mask.
- Prevent the masks from touching each other once they have been removed.
- Place each mask in an individual labeled paper bag.
- Masks are recommended to be replaced if wet/soiled. It is recommended for each individual to have at least two masks available each day.
- Masks should be laundered daily.

#### Training

All Grace Lutheran School staff will be trained on the implementation of the new health and safety precautions and practices starting August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Please keep in mind, even with all of the health and safety precautions we are implementing, there is still an inherent risk of potential exposure.**