



Immanuel Lutheran

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Dear Families of Immanuel,

I want to inform you of our protocols for the resumption of learning for the 2020-2021 school year at Immanuel. These procedures are in response to the state and department of public health requirements and guidelines put in place for the reopening of the schools. These standards have been shared with schools through ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education).

Immanuel has a strong commitment to the health and safety of her entire church and school family. Our re-opening plan contains plans for **in-person instruction (Face to Face Learning) as well as the opportunity for Remote Learning**. It is built on the current information from state agencies, but as plans and diagnoses develop, changes in our plan may well occur. We thank you in advance for your cooperation!

It is our strong desire for all students of Immanuel - both those receiving Face to Face instruction and those in Remote Learning to be an integral part of the Immanuel community. To help make that happen, we will assign a staff member as a 'learning liaison' to our Remote Learners to help them with all parts of learning - questions, understanding and even trouble-shooting technology. We encourage participation in as many activities as possible to keep our Immanuel family whole and united until we can ALL gather TOGETHER again! We seek ways to care for our Remote Learners in the same way we care for those children in Face to Face Learning. We are family!

You will notice that Immanuel's plans are similar to the plans shared by other schools in the area. The requirements for reopening apply to all schools - both public and non-public. We're all in this together!

Prior information has been shared with you via newsletter and video. Please refer to those as well. We have much to share!

We are planning on our school year to begin on August 13. Our opening service will be attended by several classes with the service being streamed into classrooms for the rest of our student body and those viewing at home.

For Face to Face Learning:

Arrival at School

Families will be provided with a Covid-19 Self Screener pad. All students will use this screener as an entry ticket into the building. Those students arriving without their 'ticket' will have their temperature checked and parents will be contacted before they are allowed entry into classrooms.

Face Coverings

Per governmental order, all people - adults and students - must wear facial coverings throughout the school day. The exception to this is when eating or drinking, or when outside while maintaining social distancing (6 feet or more from another person). Families may obtain a waiver from their physician which exempts the student from wearing a mask while providing the school with a diagnosis as to why the exemption is necessary. Students with exemptions may be required to wear a face shield while in school while maintaining the 6' social distancing.

We realize that this may be very difficult for some children. The faculty is working to find ways to provide students with the ability to remove masks outside while maintaining social distancing.

Hallways, Gatherings, and Lockers

We will be working to limit the use of hallways to ensure there are as few students as possible in the hallways at one time.

Bathroom times and procedures will be shared with students - limiting the number of students in bathrooms and hallways.

Upper grade students will not be issued locks for lockers. Teachers will limit the number of students using lockers at one time, and will have a 'schedule' of books and class readiness for middle school students.

Personal Belongings

The sharing of personal items and belongings will be restricted. Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle that can be refilled from our bottle filling stations. We ask that all personal belongings are kept to a minimum - school supplies only, please!

Classrooms

Elementary and middle school schedules are being developed to limit student movement throughout the day.

Classroom seating will be arranged to allow a maximum space between students. Extra furniture in classrooms is being removed. Seats will be assigned should the contact tracing be needed.

Lunch

Lunch will be eaten in a variety of spaces - while maintaining social distancing limiting groups to 50 or less. Some classes will eat in their classrooms. Some will be able to eat in the gym/lunchroom. Some may even be able to eat outside or in Luther Hall. A meeting with Aramark, our hot lunch provider, is scheduled over the next weeks to firm up those final details.

Field Trips

At this time, field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings can not be accommodated.

Cleaning Procedures

Several areas of our school have been freshly painted. All facilities have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to meet current guidelines. We are increasing our daily cleaning procedures focusing on high-touch areas. All classrooms are provided with cleaning disinfectant which allows extra cleaning to occur throughout the day. Areas used by a person who becomes ill will be closed off until proper cleaning can be completed. Objects, equipment and materials will be cleaned before and after use.

If Your Child Becomes Ill

For the safety and well-being of all, do not send any child to school who shows any signs of illness. Keep them home! When you report your child's absence, please share your child's symptoms. Students must be fever free without fever reducing medication for **72 hours** before returning to school. *This is different from our former rule of being fever free for 24 hours.*

COVID-19 Symptoms include the following:

Cough

Fatigue

Fever or chills

Headache

Known close contact with a person that has been diagnosed with COVID-19

Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater

Nausea or vomiting

New loss of taste or smell

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Sore throat

A supervised isolation location is prepared outside the principal's office. Students and school personnel who begin to exhibit a high fever associated with Covid-19 symptoms while at school must report to this area and put in isolation until they can be picked up from school.

Students and school employees returning from a COVID-19 related illness are required to check in at the school office before returning to their duties.

If an employee or student tests positive, the Illinois Department of Health will be contacted and their guidelines for quarantine and potential classroom or school closure will be followed.

We are not required by the state to completely close the school due to a positive COVID-19 test. However it is possible that remote learning may be required for a few students, a classroom, a portion of the school population, or potentially, the whole school population.

Visitors to Immanuel

At this point, visitors and volunteers will not be admitted to Immanuel. Once our year is underway, this plan will be re-evaluated.

Recess

Face coverings are not required outside ***if the 6 foot social distancing requirement is met.*** Playground equipment use will be limited as to the number of students that can play at one time. If multiple classes are outside at the same time, each class will occupy one of 3 zones at a time - if all zones are occupied, another class will not come outside. Students will be required to wash their hands before and after using playground equipment.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Athletics

It seems unlikely at this time that we will be able to offer after school athletic opportunities for our students. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has recently made a ruling for no contact which essentially shuts down a school's ability to compete in interscholastic sports. At this point in time information from the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) is pending. We are waiting for more guidance on this issue before a final decision can be made as to what we are able to do.

After school club activities may be offered as we work our way through the school year.

Extended Care

Before and after care is available upon registration. Students in care before school (7:00-8:10 am) will be required to present their 'entry ticket' to the Extended Care worker, and it will be brought to the School Office when students are escorted to class. Students will be grouped in similar groupings each day for Extended Care as enrollment and numbers allow. Requirements for before and aftercare programs will mirror those for school. (Social distancing, cohesive groupings of students each day, face coverings and no grouping of students larger than 50.)

For Those Who Choose Remote Learning:

Parents will be able to choose a remote learning option as well as in-person learning at Immanuel. Remote learning will be provided to families upon sign-up by calling the school office at 847-428-1010 by **August 5**. Students will be required to have a device to access Google Classroom which is the official tool put in place for all remote learning. All classes will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom for access the following day. Students participating in remote learning will be required to check in with their teacher each morning. Lessons and assignments will run 24 hours after the in-person teaching has occurred. Families are welcomed to move from remote learning to in-person after contacting the principal and the teacher.

Mandatory Remote Learning:

In the event that an individual classroom or the entire school has to be shut down for a time, Immanuel will move to remote learning. Our teachers will hold regular online meetings and provide instruction communicating daily via Google Classroom and other applications (Zoom and/or Google Meets) and attendance will be required just as it is in the Face to Face Instruction setting. Arrangements will be made to pick-up needed materials and supplies from school to initiate remote learning.

Call or Email with Questions

Immanuel will be ready to deliver a fulfilling and engaging educational experience this fall. August 13 will be our first day of class with our Opening Service streamed. The link for that can be found on our **website at www.immanuel-ed.org**. ***If you have questions, please feel free to call me at 847-428-1010 or email at sdomeier@immanuel-ed.org***.

We look forward to seeing you at Immanuel!

Serving the Master with You,

Sue Domeier
Principal