

Return to School Plan 2020-2021



July Update

FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Put Your Faith in Faith Christian Academy

Return to School Plan 2020-2021

As we prepare to reopen in September, we want you to know that all of us at FCA are working together to ensure that our students will continue to receive the excellent education and spiritual foundation that you have come to expect. We are excited to welcome our new and returning students back to FCA in September and we take comfort in the fact that we serve a mighty God who will carry us through this challenging time.

It is our hope to begin full-day, in-person instruction for grades PreK-8 on Wednesday, September 9th. Grades 9-12 will begin this academic year following a hybrid model. With the evolving nature of this virus, we understand that flexible learning options are a necessity for the foreseeable future and we are prepared to transition to a fully distance learning format should the need arise. Regardless of the instructional format, we are committed to providing our students with a quality education rooted in Biblical principles.

We understand that these are challenging times and that parents have concerns about the health and safety of their children when they are in school. To this end, we are implementing a number of protocols that are in compliance with CDC recommendations, including temperature screenings, hand-sanitizer stations in each room and throughout the building, social distancing, wearing masks when appropriate, an adjusted bell schedule to allow for safe passage in hallways, a separate isolation area should a student need to be quarantined, and enhanced sanitization and cleaning of our facilities.

The following July update is an overview. Next month, we will send an “August Update” with additional information. As we await Governor Cuomo’s August decision about reopening schools, we are preparing plans for each potential mode of instruction. Thank you for putting your faith in Faith Christian Academy.

Returning to School

MODE ONE: Full day, in-person instruction

MODE TWO: Hybrid model (in school and online)

MODE THREE: Distance learning



Returning to Campus

We hope to return to a modified level of on-campus instruction in the Fall, provided state requirements are met.

Mode One:

Full day, in-person instruction

(if the state determines a low to moderate risk)

Instructional Plan:

- PreK-8:
 - Mitigation strategies as needed
 - Health and safety guidelines in effect throughout the building
 - Traditional on-campus learning experience with modifications
 - Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of facilities
 - Full-time nurse on campus
 - Sports programs are currently being assessed. More information will be provided in the next update.

Please note that students in grades 9-12 will begin September in Hybrid mode. See instructional plan below.

Mode Two:

Hybrid model (in school and online)

(if the state determines a moderate to high risk)

Instructional Plan:

- PreK-5:
 - When students are on campus, they will attend classes on a regular school day schedule.
 - When students are at home, they will Zoom in and meet with their teacher and classmates for their Morning Meeting. Students will follow the schedule for the day that is set by the teacher.
 - Classes at home will be interactive and utilize multiple learning platforms – video, audio, reading, and interactive content make learning more engaging.
 - Classroom Community: morning Zoom meetings, sharing and prayer time

Mode Two:

Hybrid model (in school and online)

(if the state determines a moderate to high risk)

Instructional Plan:

- 6-8
 - When students are on campus, they will attend classes on a regular school day schedule.
 - When students are at home, they will Zoom in for homeroom and follow their regular bell schedule.
 - Various learning platforms, in addition to Zoom, will be utilized.
- 9-12:
 - Students will be on campus Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They will attend classes on a regular school day schedule and all core classes will be taught. We are currently considering different options to keep students socially distanced.
 - Students will learn remotely on Tuesday and Thursday. They will Zoom in for homeroom at 8:30am, check into every class, and complete assignments as directed.

Mode Three:

Distance learning

(if the state determines a high risk)

Instructional Plan:

- PreK-5:
 - Students will Zoom in and meet their teacher and classmates for their morning meeting. Students will follow the schedule that their teacher provides. All core subjects will be taught.
 - Live teacher sessions such as reading groups, lessons, online help, virtual field trips, and fun Zoom activities will be integrated into the school day.
 - Multiple learning formats such as video, audio, reading, and interactive content that make learning more engaging will be regularly used.
 - Activities will be modified to take into consideration the total amount of screen time for students.

Mode Three:

Distance learning

(if the state determines a high risk)

Instructional Plan:

- PreK-5, continued:
 - Students with IEPs will continue to receive support through our resource department.
 - Classroom Community: morning Zoom meetings, sharing and prayer time, small group projects, discussion boards
 - Teacher Touchpoints: personal phone calls, emails, postcards, and socially distanced visits when possible.
 - Timely Feedback: online portfolios of student work that can be accessed by parents at any time, digital online stickers and badges to encourage the students in their progress.
 - A daily parent update will be sent by the classroom teacher.
 - Mrs. Wallace will follow up with students who need academic and emotional support.

Mode Three:

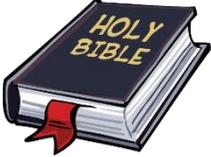
Distance learning

(if the state determines a high risk)

Instructional Plan:

- 6-12
 - Students will Zoom in for homeroom at 8:30am and follow their schedule for the rest of the day.
 - Google Classroom, Zoom, and various online platforms will be used.
 - Assignments and updates will be posted on a regular basis.
 - Modifications may be made to limit the total amount of screen time.
 - Students with IEPs will continue to receive support through our resource department.
 - Weekly communication to parents about student progress will be sent out by teachers.
 - Mrs. Wallace will follow up with students who need academic and emotional support.

Health and Safety Protocols

	Mode One	Mode Two	Mode Three
 <p>Temperature checks</p>	All students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be temperature-checked before entering the building.	All students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be temperature-checked before entering the building.	N/A
 <p>Campus visitors</p>	Limited to essential visitors only. Visitors will be temperature-checked and complete a health screening questionnaire.	Limited to essential visitors only. Visitors will be temperature-checked and complete a health screening questionnaire.	The building will be closed to all faculty and staff except for essential personnel.
 <p>Lunch</p>	We are currently assessing different options. Details to follow in the August update.	We are currently assessing different options. Details to follow in the August update.	N/A
 <p>Chapel services</p>	Socially distanced with multiple services	Socially distanced with multiple services or Zoom	Zoom
 <p>Facemasks</p>	Required in common areas and upon entering the building. Will be used when and where appropriate.	Required in common areas and upon entering the building. Will be used when and where appropriate.	N/A

Class Sizes

Class sizes will be capped to accommodate appropriate social distancing.

Outdoor spaces and non-traditional classroom space will be utilized throughout and around the building when needed.

At present, elementary cohorts will vary between 5-11 students. Cohorts will be capped at 15 students.

At present, middle school cohorts will vary between 9-13 students. Cohorts will be capped at 15 students.

At present, high school cohorts will vary between 12-22 students. Cohorts will be capped at 22 students. Cohorts that are larger than 15 students will utilize a non-traditional classroom space that has been fitted to safely socially distance up to 30 students.

Masks

Universal face coverings are mandatory in all common areas of the school. These include hallways, bathrooms, offices, chapels, and any areas where a six-foot distance cannot be maintained.

Universal face coverings will be worn in elementary grade classrooms with breaks when appropriate (for students and adults).

Universal face coverings will be worn in middle and high school classrooms and anytime when not able to maintain a six-foot distance (students and adults).

Physical Distancing Protocols

Hallways – Hallway floors will be marked with directional arrows and physical guides to reduce close contact.

Playgrounds/Recess – Students will be in smaller groups and games that require close contact will not be allowed.

Meals and Cafeteria - Lunch service will be suspended for the Fall/Winter semester. Students will bring lunch from home.

*Note FCA school does not receive Title 1 funding and is therefore not required to provide free and reduced lunch services.

Elementary cohorts will eat lunch in their classrooms.

Separate lunch periods and additional spaces will be created for MS and HS students to minimize contact. Outdoor spaces will be utilized whenever possible. A separate space will be created for students with food allergies.

Students will be reminded to wash hands/use hand sanitizer before and after eating.

Electives - All music electives that require exhalation exercises are suspended for the Fall/Winter season. Art and all other electives have been moved to an online format. Gym classes will be held and cohorts will be small enough to allow for safe social distancing. Gym classes will be held outside for as long as the weather permits.

Desks and Lockers - Desks will be placed 6 feet apart in all classrooms. Cohort classes will limit crossover of students and teachers to reduce hallway traffic. Teachers will rotate instead of students when feasible.

MS and HS lockers will be assigned by cohort to reduce the need for hallway use across multiple areas of the building. Students will wear face coverings when they use their lockers. A designated monitor will be in the hallway at all times.

Bussing – Faith Christian Academy receives transportation services from several local school districts and we are currently waiting for more information from each district at this time.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of facilities will be practiced on a daily basis. A non-toxic disinfectant spray will be used throughout the building.

Outdoor play equipment with high touch surfaces such as railings, handles, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Disinfectant wipes/spray will be provided for all teachers to maintain their classes through out the day.

Onsite School Health Services

A registered nurse will be in the school building for the entire school day.

All students and staff will be temperature checked before entering the building.

Students who present with a temperature will be quarantined in a separate location and a parent/guardian will be instructed to pick the child up within 30 minutes.

Teachers will be required to submit a daily health screening questionnaire before they arrive to school. If a teacher presents with a temperature upon arrival, he/she will be asked to return home.

All visitors will be temperature checked and required to fill out a health screening before they enter the building.

The quarantine room will be disinfected after students and staff exit the area.

In the event that a student or staff member does have a documented, positive case of COVID-19, the local health department will be notified immediately and FCA will follow the guidance that they provide in terms of school closures.

Education

When schools were instructed to go online in March, Faith Christian Academy continued to provide teacher-based instruction via Zoom and Google classroom on a daily basis. In general, instructional progress was not interrupted during this time, but adjustments to the curricula and homework goals were made to maintain a balance between coursework expectations and emotional health. If remote learning becomes the only option available, FCA will follow an enhanced model of what was used last Spring.

Special Education

All students with IEPs and 504s will continue to receive services from our resource department. FCA's school counselor will follow up with these students as well to ensure that their needs are supported.

Emotional and Mental Health Support

Faith Christian Academy's school counselor and campus pastor will continue to follow up with all students and faculty members to ensure that they are spiritually, emotionally, and mentally doing well. Resources, accommodations, and other means to support students and staff will be provided whenever appropriate.

This document represents our plans for a safe school opening on September 9th, 2020. FCA's school reopening team, which consists of administrators, teachers, parents, and medical personnel, are continually updating protocols and procedures. The health and safety of our FCA Family is our first priority. An update of this document will be provided to all parents, faculty, and staff after we hear from the Governor in August.