

Concordia Classical Academy - A Plan to Move Forward - Fall 2020

The 2019- 2020 academic year ended in a way that no one could have predicted. The effects of Covid - 19 had a significant impact on the lives of many people, including our students. We are thankful for the fine work the students did during our time apart, and we are especially grateful for how our parents “stepped up” to continue their children’s education. Now, as we prepare for the 2020 - 2021 academic year we reflect on what we have learned, and with God’s help we seek to set forth a plan that will allow us to return to our classrooms safely and get about the work that He has called us to do. We are here to help parents prepare their children for life in this world and in the next. We do this in a Christian school using God’s Word as our guide.

We plan on having children in our classrooms every day starting on August 31, 2020. We will also be preparing to do “distance learning” using online resources, if that becomes necessary. Because there are many unknowns with regard to the virus, we must prepare multiple options to best serve our families. It is also possible that a “hybrid” of in-person learning and online learning will be necessary. Situations that could affect our style of instruction could be the availability of transportation, weather, public school closings and possible cases of Covid-19 within our academy. The faculty along with the Board of Education will keep abreast of changing conditions and communicate our plans to our families as needed. Because we are a small school, we can react quickly to changing circumstances. We do this to carry out our important work and to keep everyone safe.

In the following pages I will discuss major areas of consideration as we move forward:

1. Cleaning and Sanitizing
2. Social Distancing in a School Setting
3. Hot Lunch - How do we do it?
4. What if we have a Covid -19 case at school
5. Hygiene Practices
6. Student - Faculty - Staff Health Checks
7. Technology
8. Who do I contact with questions and concerns?

1. Cleaning and sanitizing our facility is a very important part of our ability to move forward in “Fall 2020.” As a part of the CARES Act, financial assistance may be available to us for intensive cleaning and sanitizing. Consultations with our Local Education Authority (LEA) will be forthcoming and the extent of financial assistance will be determined. Currently our academy and church is cleaned by the Ricardo Gil family. Discussions need to be held in order to determine how their efforts can be augmented. This discussion needs to happen within the governing bodies of Concordia and Good Shepherd. Students in grades 5-8 along with faculty assistance will disinfect desktops, chairs, tables and other surfaces that individuals may touch on a twice daily schedule: at the beginning of the day and at the end. Daily cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms and the kitchen are also required.

2. Social distancing remains an important tool for us to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. We will develop plans on how we can keep the 6 foot distance rule for our students, faculty and staff. It will be necessary to use our entire campus to accomplish this important goal. Grades 5-8 (15 students) will meet in the church sanctuary for “whole class instruction.” Students will have their desks and chairs there so we will limit the contact we have with the furniture and fixtures in the sanctuary. Students will then be assigned to work in various smaller rooms in order to complete their assignments. Mr. Holten will circulate to the various classrooms to ensure that students are “on task.” Face masks will be used by everyone when social distancing cannot be achieved. Grades K-1 and 2-4 will use the Fellowship Hall and other smaller classrooms in order to achieve social distancing. This will be done according to teacher discretion.

3. Hot Lunch - How do we do it?

Mrs. Brase, our Hot Lunch Coordinator is in conversation with our supplier, Lutheran Social Service, on how to best provide healthy and safe meals for our students. Students will still be able to bring their lunch from home. At no time will students “share” food with other students. They will be assigned seating in order to maintain social distancing. Other classrooms could be used by older students if necessary. We will need a plastic shield to put up where the lunches are served. This will provide a necessary barrier for student safety. Servers will be limited to adults who have passed a health screening. All proper safety equipment will be used, including face masks and gloves. We will follow MN State guidelines with regard to hot lunch. Students will be “called up” from their assigned seats and will be asked to keep their 6 foot distance from each other. X’s will be placed on the floor to help students do this. At the end of the lunch service all the tables and chairs will be sanitized daily. We need to determine who will do this. Staff, Faculty, Students or additional adult volunteers?????

4. What if we have a Covid- 19 case here at school?

Students, faculty and staff should stay home if they are feeling sick. If a person has ongoing issues with coughing, sneezing, runny noses, high temperature, or shortness of breath they need to stay home or seek medical attention depending on the severity of their symptoms. There is a higher level of sensitivity to these symptoms than ever before. So, if anyone has these symptoms, they should not come to school.

If someone presents such symptoms during the school day, wearing a mask will be required. It may be necessary for the individual to be isolated from the rest of the students, faculty and staff. A designated isolation room will be identified and communicated to everyone. Parents will be called and asked to pick up their child from school. Under severe circumstances an ambulance may be called to help the individual get appropriate medical care.

We will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting. Concordia will follow local health department guidelines for incidents of Covid - 19 at the academy. Sick students, faculty and staff should not return until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.

5. Hygiene Practices - Drinking fountains

Thorough washing of hands with soap for 20 seconds is an effective way to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. Teachers will train, remind and encourage students to do this multiple times during the day. Students are encouraged not to touch their faces as well. Hand sanitizer will be available in all the rooms, along with tissues. Covering your cough or sneeze the the bend of your elbow is strongly encouraged. If someone needs to use a facial tissue, they will throw it in the garbage and then wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.

Drinking fountains will NOT be used. Children may have a personal water bottle which should be taken home daily for washing and sanitizing.

6. Student - Faculty - Staff Daily Health Checks

Everyone will have their temperature taken upon entering the school building. We have a new thermometer that will make that quick and easy. It is important, though, that everyone do a personal screening before leaving their home. Do I have a temperature? A cough, sneezing, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell? If you have any of these symptoms, you need to stay home and get appropriate medical care. **YOU WILL NOT FACE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES** for missing

school because you have these symptoms. We will support you and help you get caught up when you can return. “If in doubt, stay out” will be our mantra. **IF YOU DEVELOP THESE SYMPTOMS WHILE AT SCHOOL YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK UNTIL YOU CAN GET PICKED UP.** It may also be necessary to isolate students with these symptoms until they can be picked up. Face masks should be brought from home, but the school will have a supply, if needed.

7. Technology

It is our goal to do “in-person” instruction at Concordia this year. We are, however, working on using more technology if it is needed and the teacher feels it is useful. Pastor Bjornstad and other faculty members will be working on a system where students and teachers can see and hear each other. The use of this technology will be taught and practiced at school to help assure success when or if it is needed.

8. Who do I contact with questions and concerns?

Please contact the school office with any questions and concerns. Mr. Holten will be available at school or at home for information. Please feel free to contact him via telephone or email.