



2020-2021 COVID-19 Safe Start Preparedness Plan

The faculty and staff of Bethel Lutheran School are excited about the new school year and the return of in-person teaching! We hope you are as well.

Please observe the new guidelines as an outward display of the love and concern we have for others within our school community. We also know that questions will arise, and you as parents can provide valuable feedback as we travel through this school year. It is important that we work together and strive to follow the words of the Apostle Paul, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18). May this be at the forefront of all our thoughts and discussions!

Bethel's reopening plan addresses the categories listed by the **Michigan Safe Schools Roadmap**.

- Phases 1-3: Distance learning only (In-person schooling is not permitted by the state), see p. 2-3
- Phase 4: In-person schooling with more stringent required safety protocols, see p. 3-7
- Phase 5: In-person schooling with moderately required safety protocols, see p. 7-9
- Phase 6: In-person schooling with "normal" safety protocols. (A plan specific to this phase will be published as we approach that status.)

Please note, if the Michigan District Teachers' Conference gets cancelled, we will be in school October 7-9, 2020.

Any point on this document may be subject to change as Bethel Lutheran School molds and shapes the plan towards what is best for the students, parents, and teachers.

Phases 1-3

Bethel Lutheran School will be closed for in-person instruction and will move to the Virtual Learning Plan. Bethel's platform for the Virtual Learning Plan will be Seesaw.

- If the Virtual Learning Plan is implemented, the students will still receive a quality education. Each classroom teacher will do their best to adhere to curriculum standards while teaching virtually. Teachers will make modifications to classroom material as necessary.
- Teachers will be in regular communication with the parents or legal guardians and students to ensure homework is being finished in a timely manner at a high standard.
- All homework will be due as if there were in-person school. Students should be completing homework daily and student accountability will be reflected in grades and feedback.
- Each teacher will be in close contact with the parents or legal guardians in regards to their child's homework and grades.

Families will need access to reliable internet and a computer, tablet, or smartphone to complete homework.

- Bethel will have chromebooks available to loan. To borrow a chromebook, please contact Mr. Thooft at zachthooft7@gmail.com
- There will be initial materials pickup at the beginning of virtual learning. Parents or legal guardians will be notified of any additional pickup as needed.
- Whether textbook, Chromebook or any other materials, Bethel expects the school materials to be returned in the same condition they were loaned out. Bethel reserves the right to charge families for damaged or lost materials.

Parent or Legal Guardian Responsibilities

- It is important for the parents or legal guardians to check on their child's work daily.

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- Parents should be in regular communication with their child’s teacher to keep up to date with assignments, announcements, etc.

Student Responsibilities

- Students will show their parents that their homework is finished.
- Students are required to participate in classes and lessons posted by the teachers, reading anything the teacher posts in Seesaw, and turn in the homework for grading.
- It is important for the students to keep up with classes and homework and not fall behind. When school does resume in-person classes, the teachers can continue with the material instead of catching up.

Phase 4

Personal Protective Equipment

- Facial coverings will be worn by teachers and children in PreK-8 in the hallways and common areas unless a person is not medically able to do so.
- Facial coverings will be worn by teachers in classrooms unless a teacher is not medically able to do so.
- Facial coverings are optional in the classroom for students in PreK-8.
- Cloth facial coverings should be washed daily and disposable facial coverings should be disposed of daily.

Hygiene

- Teachers will reinforce proper hygiene habits. (ie. proper handwashing, sneezing & coughing protocols, etc.).

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- Proper handwashing signage will be posted at handwashing stations and entrances to the building.
 - Students will frequently handwash throughout the school day.
 - Any person entering the building must wash or sanitize their hands.
 - All common use supplies will be properly sanitized after use.

Spacing, Movement, and Access

- Desks will be spaced out as much as possible and social distancing practices will be encouraged in classrooms.
- Classrooms will have open windows as much as possible throughout the school day and school year.
- Recesses will be staggered. Each classroom will go to recess at a different time.
- Efforts will be made to have staggered movement and social distancing in all non-classroom situations.
- Drop off/pick up
 - Drop off and pick up will take place in the Ridge Road parking lot.
 - Parents and caregivers will not enter the building unless necessary.
 - If a person must enter the building, face coverings will be worn by anyone entering and that person must wash hands/sanitize upon entering.
 - A teacher will monitor dismissal allowing parents and caregivers to wait for their child in their car.

Screening Students and Staff

- Bethel will cooperate with the local Bay County Health Department regarding protocols for screening students and staff.

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- Parents will take their child's temperature every morning and children with a temperature of 100.4 or greater must stay home.
 - A child must be fever and/or symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication to return to school.
 - **If your child is sick it does not necessarily mean your child has COVID-19.**
 - Bethel staff will monitor children's health throughout the school day. Children who display signs of illness (ie. fever of 100.4 or higher, etc.) will be isolated and parents will be contacted for immediate pickup.
 - If you must travel out of the state, please contact the local health department for potential quarantine protocols.

Testing Protocols for Students and Staff Responding to Positive Cases

- Bethel will cooperate with the local Bay County Health Department regarding protocols for screening students and staff.

Responding to Positive Test Among Staff and Students

- Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the school. Names affected will not be shared in the notification.
 - After learning of a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 of a teacher or student, local Bay County Health Department guidelines will be followed. A class may move into the Virtual Learning Plan in a timely manner until the isolation/quarantine is no longer in effect.
 - The teachers will record necessary classes when a student is missing due to coronavirus so that learning can continue to happen if the student is in a COVID-19 quarantine.
 - Unless the student is physically unable to participate or do the homework, they are expected to watch the classes and finish the homework.

Food Service, Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities

- No assemblies or gatherings will be held during Phase 4. This includes events like the Ice Cream Social, Grandparents' Day, portions of Lutheran Schools Week, school plays, etc. If possible, events may be rescheduled for a different time once we move into Phase 6.
- Students must bring their own lunch. Students should be able to open items independently to every extent possible. Lunches should not be shared. Microwaves will not be used. Please plan accordingly!
- The drinking fountains will be off-limits. Students should bring their own water bottles.
- There will be no hot lunch until further notice.
- No field trips will be scheduled during this time.
- Chapel will take place in the classrooms.
- We will NOT be offering Choir, Robotics, or Recorders at this time. This will mean that we will not be singing in church until further notice. This could possibly affect the Children's Christmas Service. More information regarding that will be forth-coming.
- Individual band and piano lessons may still be scheduled at the discretion of the band and piano teachers.
- Physical Education will continue to be offered. Classes are encouraged to have P.E. class outside whenever possible and to social distance when possible. Students and staff will wash hands before and after and any equipment used will be sanitized afterward.

Athletics

- For MALL (Mid-Michigan Area Lutheran League) athletic activities Bethel will follow MHSAA (Michigan High School Athletic Association) guidelines where possible.

Cleaning

- Disinfection including misting will be performed as part of our janitorial services each night.
- Desks and highly touched surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day.

Phase 5

Personal Protective Equipment

- Facial coverings will be required to be worn by teachers and children in PreK-8 in the hallways and common areas.
- Facial coverings will be optional in the classroom for teachers and students in PreK-8.
- Cloth facial coverings are to be washed daily and disposable facial coverings should be disposed of daily.

Hygiene

- Teachers will reinforce proper hygiene habits. (ie. proper handwashing, sneezing & coughing, etc.).
- Proper handwashing signage will be posted at handwashing stations and entrances to the building.
- Students will frequently handwash throughout the school day.
- Any person entering the building must wash or sanitize their hands.
- All common use supplies will be properly sanitized after use.

Spacing, Movement, and Access

- Desks will be spaced out as much as possible and social distancing practices will be encouraged in classrooms.

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- Classrooms will have open windows as much as possible throughout the school day and school year.
 - Recesses will be staggered. Each classroom will go to recess at a different time.
 - Efforts will be made to have staggered movement and social distancing in all non-classroom situations.
 - Special classes (ie. choir, robotics, etc.) will be resumed and taught within individual classrooms.
 - Drop off/pick up
 - Drop off and pick up will take place in the Ridge Road parking lot.
 - Parents and caregivers will not enter the building unless necessary.
 - If a person must enter the building, face coverings will be worn by anyone entering and that person must wash hands/sanitize upon entering.
 - A teacher will monitor dismissal allowing parents and caregivers to wait for their child in their car.

Screening Students and Staff

- Bethel will cooperate with the local Bay County Health Department regarding protocols for screening students and staff.
- Parents will take their child's temperature every morning and children with a temperature of 100.4 or greater must stay home.
 - A child must be fever and/or symptom-free for 24 hours to return to school.
 - **If your child is sick it does not necessarily mean your child has COVID-19.**
- Bethel staff will monitor children's health throughout the school day. Children who display signs of illness (ie. fever of 100.4 or higher, etc.) will be isolated and parents will be contacted for immediate pickup.

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- If you must travel please contact the local health department for potential quarantine protocols.

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 - The teachers will record necessary classes when a student is missing due to coronavirus so that learning can continue to happen if the student is in a COVID-19 quarantine.
 - Unless the student is physically unable to participate or do the homework, they are expected to watch the classes and complete school work.

Extracurricular Activities

- No assemblies or gatherings will be held during Phase 5. This includes events like the Ice Cream Social, Grandparents' Day, portions of Lutheran Schools Week, school plays, etc. If possible, events may be rescheduled for a different time once we move into Phase 6.

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 - The drinking fountains will be off-limits. Students should bring their own water bottles.
 - Chapel will take place in the classrooms.
 - Choir and Robotics will resume within individual classrooms.
 - Physical Education will continue to be offered. Classes are encouraged to have P.E. class outside whenever possible and to social distance when possible. Students and staff will wash hands before and after and any equipment used will be sanitized afterward.

Athletics

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