



- **At what point is the school comfortable moving to hybrid or distance learning options versus continuing on with in person learning?**
 - *Our decision to change the mode of learning to hybrid learning or distance learning will be closely tied to the advice we receive from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in case of an outbreak or spread in our local and state community.*
- **How closely will you be following District 196 and the mode of learning they are offering families?**
 - *We will continue to do what we feel is best for our students and staff to stay healthy and safe, to learn, to form community, and to grow in their faith. We may move from on-site, to hybrid, to distance- which may or may not be the situation of schools in District 196.*
- **Will the school notify parents immediately with exposure so families have the option to keep their children home the following day(s)?**
 - *We will work with MDH to notify parents as quickly and prudently as possible to get important information out to our families.*
- **In the event of an outbreak, how quickly will school close, the next day or week?**
 - *Depending on the specific details of the situation- it seems to follow that schools generally close as soon as possible after an outbreak. The recommendations from MDH explain how they will help FSCS to first quarantine the impacted classroom and siblings of the positive-testing student before shutting down an entire school.*
- **Will students be sent home with the appropriate materials each night/weekend to be prepared for a sudden change to distance learning?**
 - *We will notify school staff and families as quickly as possible to make sure that students have their materials or a way to gain access to their materials. Teachers are starting the year knowing that a change could happen at any time.*
- **How much notice does a family have to give if they decide to pull their child into distance learning for a few weeks/permanently?**
 - *To remain flexible and responsive to the needs of families- we want parents to be able to change their preferred mode of learning quickly. A two day notice is preferred to help make sure everyone knows who is in the building and who isn't so that all students are accounted for at all times.*
- **Once we decide whether we will move forward with in-person learning or distance learning, how long are we committing to that choice for? (i.e., all year, until MEA break, etc.)**
 - *The commitment is just a commitment to start. We want to remain flexible for families to do what is best for their family health situation and comfort level. For example, if a family chooses to start distance learning, two weeks later- a month later, etc. the family can then choose to participate in on-site classes. The opposite is true as well for parents who start on-site for families who prefer to switch to distance learning.*

- **How are you planning to monitor the social emotional health of students?**
 - *Our K-4 students will be given a survey to begin the year in our Friendly program to establish a baseline for social emotional health. This short quiz can be readministered periodically to assess student emotional health. 5-8th grade could do something similar- but in a more age appropriate manner. We also plan to offer more mental health resources to our community through the generosity of the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence. Our school counselor, Meagan Moseley, will also be available as a resource for students.*
- **Who will be disinfecting classrooms and equipment and how often will it be done?**
 - *Middle school classrooms will be disinfecting with the changing of classes, before/after lunch, and every evening. School staff will be cleaning per the recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Health. Elementary classrooms will be cleaned before/after lunch, during specialist times, and every evening. Custodians will be doing the cleaning in the evenings. We will be following the procedures outlined by MDH- both in choice of cleaning materials, the manner in which cleaning is performed, and what items are cleaned.*
- **What materials are used to clean? Is the school providing an adequate supply of cleaning materials (solution, gloves, wipes, etc.)?**
 - *The school is providing all of the necessary cleaning supplies and has a system in place to make sure that supplies are ordered well in advance to ensure that proper cleaning takes place.*
- **Why are temperatures being taken outside of the classroom instead of being taken outside of the school?**
 - *We believe that taking temperatures at the door would create an unnecessary backlog of students and compromise social distancing. Instead- students will proceed directly to their classroom where they are screened before they enter the room. Students will be encouraged to socially distance as they travel to their classroom and wait, 6 feet away, to have their temperature taken. If they do have an elevated temperature (over 100.4 F, per current MDH guidelines), they will be taken to the school nurse who will begin a series of protocols to determine if the student should be sent home. Teachers will be educated on what symptoms to look for throughout the day and parents will be asked to perform a screening at home before sending their child to school.*
- **How will you prevent parents from not sending their child to school with fever-reducing medication to 'get through the day' for any illness?**
 - *Unfortunately, this is not something that we can control and parents, as always, are on the honor system to do their part in following accepted screening protocols at home to do their part to responsibly limit the spread of COVID 19 and other illnesses.*
- **Who will be taking the teachers' temperatures each morning? Or are you relying on self reporting?**
 - *Similar to the screenings done at many local parishes, adults will be taking their own temperatures and reporting it or office staff will assist in recording staff temperatures.*
- **Will the students be allowed to have their water bottle at their desk or have to go to a communal place to retrieve it?**

- *Students are able to have their water bottles at their desks as long as they do not cause a disruption to learning.*

- **Will you have a separate waiting room for students who have been identified as having coronavirus symptoms?**
 - *The conference room near the health office will be the waiting room for students identified to have fevers or other symptoms. Students will be socially distanced within this waiting room and it will be cleaned to MDH recommendations.*
- **How is the current custodial staff being trained on the enhanced cleaning procedures needed with regards to COVID?**
 - *Current custodial staff and future custodial staff have been or will be trained in COVID cleaning procedures. These procedures have already been in place over the summer with the summer care program. MDH provides clear guidance on cleaning protocols.*
- **Playground Equipment - - Who will be disinfecting daily? Are they aware and trained on cleaning best practices?**
 - *Trained school staff using recommended cleaning products will be cleaning playground equipment.*
- **Filters - - What is the frequency of "routinely changed/upgraded"?**
 - *The school's Preventative Maintenance Contract calls for regular inspection and changing of our filters. They will be inspected on a monthly basis and replaced as needed. We are also researching various methods to increase the cleaning of the air exchanged throughout the building.*
- **Carpets - - How often will the carpet be cleaned?**
 - *Carpet cleaning will continue to be a priority and will be cleaned more frequently with the help of additional custodial staff.*
- **Railings - - Will the railings be disinfected after each class movement?**
 - *Railings will be cleaned, along with handles, etc. at several times throughout the day. Doors will be kept open throughout the building to reduce the number of surfaces being touched.*
- **What is the justification for not requiring face masks on the playground?**
 - *We are following MDH guidance in starting the school year without face masks at recess outside- we realize that as we learn more about COVID 19, this may have to change. "Staff, students, and other people present in the school building or in district offices may temporarily remove their face covering or face shield in the following situations: Face coverings may be temporarily removed when engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g., during recess, after school sports, or when exercising in a gym) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult, and during classes or activities held outdoors. People participating in these activities should maintain 6 feet of distance while doing so to the extent feasible."*
- **Are you anticipating teachers will support students in the classroom and virtually simultaneously all day, every day or will distance learning students be given an opportunity to connect with their teacher one on one or in a smaller group at some point each time?**
 - *Our current plan is for the key part of lessons to be live-streamed and recorded for home access- either live or at a later time convenient for the family. All teachers are*

asked to give parents and students who are distance learning a time for a daily check-in- either one on one, in small groups, or live when the lesson is being taught.

- **Will we have the opportunity to opt-out of in person participation of mass and instead watch the live stream from the classroom? Until the virus is controlled, could it just be live streamed to the classrooms and not have any children gather in the gym, or only the class hosting the Mass?**
 - *The number of classes in the gym to celebrate Mass is still to be determined- it may be just one class at a time, one grade level, or two grade levels. We will focus on mask use and 6 feet of social distance in the gym during mass. For families not comfortable with this situation, there will be alternatives available.*
- **Are you planning to share the number of confirmed COVID cases within the FSCS community on a weekly basis?**
 - *A webpage is being created to share resources and information for families. Your questions will be an important part of an FAQ section to help answer important questions that our community has. We will communicate COVID cases as allowed by MDH and local health officials. MDH guidance offers: "Develop systems for notifying staff, families, and the public as needed if a person with COVID-19 was on the school premises while infectious. Do this in coordination with local health officials while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws."*
- **Are teachers planning to reach out to parents in the near future with additional details about classroom set up? Will student desks be 6 feet apart? If it is not possible for desks to be 6 feet apart, will other spaces (library, etc) be utilized to help with social distancing?**
 - *Classrooms are currently being set-up based on the number of students in the classroom. Additional tables, storage cabinets, etc are also being removed from the classroom to create more space... The planning guide from the Minnesota Department of Health states: "In this planning scenario, schools should create as much space between people as possible during the day, recognizing that it is not always feasible to have 6 feet of social distancing during primary instructional time in the classroom." We are providing as much space as possible between students in classrooms. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers, "Evidence suggests that spacing as close as 3 feet may approach the benefits of 6 feet of space, particularly if students are wearing face coverings and are asymptomatic."*
- **Does Faithful Shepherd plan to run the Air Conditioning during school hours?**
 - *We have been working with HVAC professionals to ensure the recommended airflow for schools. MDH offers: "Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible." Our HVAC system allows us to bring more fresh air into the building through our building automation system and will be monitored regularly. We are planning on setting the ventilation system to allow for the optimal intake and exchange of outside air.*

- **Why are there different grades of students being grouped together for different events/activities? The plan states 3 grades will attend church together, while only 2 will be together for lunch and recess. Can you please explain why grouping different grades together is not consistent?**
 - *Lunch and recess used to be three grades in past years- but we did reduce that to two grades at once to promote social distancing at recess and at lunch. By and large, students in grades K-8 will not be mixing very often with other grades. The mass configuration was an example- we may only do one grade level at a time, or we may do two- it all depends on our ability to stay under the number of 250 attendees and to be socially distant in the gym.*
- **Additionally, it appears that hybrid learning will not be part of Faithful Shepherd's plan for the upcoming academic year. Can you please speak to this more and explain why hybrid is not currently being offered when this would provide additional safeguards with social distancing while also keeping children in school for part of the week?**
 - *Hybrid learning is not being ruled out. We see these options on a continuum with on-site instruction being on one end of the spectrum with distance learning being at the other end with hybrid in the middle. We have been encouraged to start on-site by the Archdiocese- all 79 Catholic grade schools have been asked to do so. We have taken several steps to mitigate the risk of spreading and contracting COVID 19. If it is deemed that we can't guarantee the health and safety with the on-site instruction plan- we will then most likely move to a hybrid system where the number of students on campus is reduced and can be spread out even more than we are planning for full on-site instruction. Finally, distance learning will be our option of last resort if we absolutely have to move learning off campus to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.*
- **Do we have any additional information about how bussing will work for FS families? I see ISD 196 has indicated capacity will be reduced on each bus. I also saw that the state issued guidance that bussing will still need to be provided to non-public students in alignment with whatever model the district is adopting for back to school.**
 - *We are working with District 196 to confirm bussing details for the coming school year.*
- **Is the FS calendar going to follow the district calendar? They've pushed the in person start date to 9/14, moved staff development days to Wednesdays and adjusted the end of the school year to 6/8 for elementary.**
 - *We are not changing our start or end date and at this time we are not looking at changing our calendar based on their professional development days moving to Wednesday as our Mass calendar for Wednesdays is pretty well set.*
- **Will Faithful Shepherd be scheduling a parent meeting/town hall this week for parents to ask questions/hear other parent questions or concerns?**
 - *We are not scheduling a town hall meeting but are working on a FAQ to post on our website to answer many of these questions. Administration is also open to having phone conversations with parents to help answer questions.*
- **Are class sizes being adjusted, or should we expect to see the same number of students in each class as previous years? If class sizes will remain the same, will there be enough space to manage 6 ft between students?**
 - *Class sizes are not being adjusted. We will have a minimum of 3', so will be following the MDH guidelines to have all desks face forward (if it is not possible to arrange*

seating 6 feet apart, consider turning all desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other).

- **Why not a hybrid model for middle school students like the public schools are doing?**
 - *In terms of the hybrid model- it is definitely an option. If and when we do switch to hybrid learning- we will more than likely divide students by families who attend on-site instruction on specific days of the week and stay home on other days. Our middle school is also in a different situation from public middle schools in that we have about 135 students- not 800 or 900 students so staggering passing times and limiting mixing as much as we can are ways we can mitigate the risk of spreading COVID 19 while still offering everyday on-site instruction.*
- **What is the plan when someone in our school community tests positive for COVID 19?**
 - *First, we report the case to MDH. After we make the report, MDH will provide guidance on what to do regarding next steps for specific staff, students, classrooms, and the school. Typically, they are advising that those within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes are at home for 10 days. Again- MDH takes this on a case by case basis.*
- **What are the class sizes in the middle school?**
 - *Class sizes vary depending on the particular math class or language class students are in. As a guide- we have about 40 students in 6th grade (divided into two groups), 49 students in 7th grade, and 45 students in 8th grade.*
- **If we were to start distant learning, would we “lose our spot” or would we still be considered part of the class?**
 - *You will not lose your spot if you choose distance learning. Class size limits include students who are distance learners- so that when we are all back together- we still have reasonable class sizes.*
- **I understand there will be 3 first grade teachers. Great news. What is the average class size for our first graders?**
 - *18 currently, and it won't go over 21.*
- **Will kids be required to participate in band or music where there is an instrument or singing component? My son's trumpet has a spit valve...how can that be safe?**
 - *Choir and band are optional activities offered on Wednesday afternoons for students in 6-7-8th grades.. At this time, rehearsals are planned in the gym for social distancing purposes. Choir members will be asked to wear masks as well as be 12 feet away from each other and will be facing the same direction. Band members will be twelve feet apart as well with percussionists masked, woodwind and brass players unmasked. Here is what the Minnesota Department of Health has to say on this issue: “During indoor practices or performances involving singing, acting, or playing musical instruments where face coverings cannot be worn or are impractical to wear while playing the instrument or participating in the activity. Because these activities often generate aerosols, performers should ideally maintain 12 feet or greater of physical distance from others while participating in the activity to the extent possible, and should replace their face covering as soon as the activity is completed. Depending on the activity, face shields should also be considered as an alternative if 12 feet of social distancing cannot be consistently maintained. “*

- **How will Gym be handled? They will be unmasked I'm sure, and now that the weather is nice outdoors it's fine..what happens when the weather is bad? Indoors and unmasked is not safe for the entire 8th grade...even in the gym?**
 - *Using MDH recommendations for PE class in schools- here is our guidance: "Staff, students, and other people present in the school building or in district offices may temporarily remove their face covering or face shield in the following situations: Face coverings may be temporarily removed when engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g., during recess, after school sports, or when exercising in a gym) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult, and during classes or activities held outdoors. People participating in these activities should maintain 6 feet of distance while doing so to the extent feasible." This year, the entire 8th grade will not be in PE together (applies to 6th and 7th as well)- the grade will be split into two different sections, only one of which has PE at a time.*
- **What disciplinary measures will be taken with kids who refuse to comply or make school unsafe for others?**
 - *Students who put the health and safety of other students in danger will be asked to learn from home where they are unable to endanger the health of others.*
- **Is there any attempt to limit the class sizes for the MS classes so that they will be able to social distance in the classroom?**
 - *We will separate tables as much as possible and have ordered plexiglass barriers to place on the tables between two students. They will also be wearing masks.*
- **Would specialists be able to rotate to the classrooms instead of the students walking through the halls and entering a different classroom?**
 - *We have chosen to have our students travel to specialist rooms for many reasons. One reason is to give students a chance to move out of their room to use equipment particular to each specialist class. Moving students from their rooms allows homerooms to be sanitized when students are gone. Moving students also allows teachers a space to prepare upcoming lessons/activities or to even spot record a video lesson if necessary for those choosing distance learning. This year, each specialist classroom will only have 4 classes each week- compared to up to 30 classes/week last year. This greatly reduces the number of students using each room each week, allows for room sanitization between classes, and allows teachers the time to properly clean and sanitize supplies as well. Students will only be going to one specials' class each day and staying for a longer period of time- reducing traffic in the hallways and reducing the number of classrooms they spend time in each day.*
- **Will there be rotation between the classes for different areas so 2-3 classes are not crowding an area during recess? Can the classes rotate between, playground, field, baseball field, and parking lot?**
 - *We are cutting down the number of children allowed out at recess by 33% compared to last year- that should help. We are considering asking each grade level to take turns on the playground equipment, fields, etc. This is something to discuss with our supervisory staff and homeroom teachers. A plan will be developed during workshop week to make sure everyone is aware of our procedures and on the same page.*

- **Do you have a document that details the health-screening - the symptoms that will necessitate a child and siblings stay home and for how long?**
 - *We will be communicating important health information and hygiene best practices at the beginning of the school year and throughout the year. For now, MDH offers: "Symptoms of COVID-19 include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, loss of sense of smell or taste, or gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea."*
- **What will the first day of school look like in terms of families that have new students starting feeling comfortable/knowing where their classroom is/etc.?**
 - *The first day of school will be like none other! We are hoping our K-3 families will use the Assessment appointments on August 25 & 26 as a meet and greet to briefly meet the teacher, drop off school supplies, etc. This may help the transition with new families. 4-8th grades are also planning to have a scheduled time for families to come in and see the classroom, drop off supplies, meet the teacher, etc. When students arrive at school- they will go directly to their homeroom- so that should help some new students get settled right away as well. The teaching staff can certainly brainstorm possibilities for the 1st day to help ease the transition for new students even more.*