



Fellowship Christian School
One Family: Learning, Serving, Sharing & Transforming the World

2020-2021 Back to School Guide

With Covid-19 Policies & Procedures

Fellowship Christian School plans to continue to offer a safe and welcoming environment as well as first and foremost, a Godly focus with all pursuits (academic and extracurricular). For the 2020-2021 school year, to continue to meet the needs of the community, **students will have the option to learn on campus or learn from home.** Both options will provide students with the same commitment to learning and support of teachers and staff. As we did last school year, we will continue to offer a full, balanced course-load for all students. We have provided some answers on the school website, with an FAQ page, but are also providing additional information here, for returning to learning on campus. Please feel free to email us if you have any additional questions (FellowshipChristianSchools@gmail.com).

This is a living document that will grow and change as we continue to get more information from DOH, the state, and OSPI. Please understand that questions and answers will be edited as we learn more and as guidelines evolve.

Back to School Options

What are the different “back-to-school” possibilities for this year?

A

In-Person, On-Campus learning (Pre-K through Grade 12)

Students will be back in classrooms (under a regular schedule) with their teachers and peers. Health and safety protocols will be in place.

B

Virtual, Synchronous learning at home

Secondary (6-12) students will attend their classes (taking place on campus) virtually from home, using Vedamo & Google Classroom. Students will follow the normal bell and class schedule, as done at the end of 2019-2020. We are available to accommodate/modify for less screen time and to work with family and student needs.

Pre-K through Grade 5 students will attend full in person, on campus.

C

Pre-K full in person with Emergency Care (K-12) and Virtual or Hybrid learning (limited to those in need of in person staff help)

If the school is forced to close for health and safety reasons, Pre-K and emergency care will remain open. Emergency care will include helping students that will require a teacher present. We would be returning to in person teaching as soon as possible.

Back to School Options

What will “going back to school” look like in September for my child?

The goal is to get our schools open for face-to-face, in-person instruction for as many students as we can safely.

We intend to start the school year offering families a choice of either Option A or B (or C for secondary), depending on what works best for each family situation.

Students can either attend school on campus or learn from home. Both plans will happen simultaneously.

As a staff, we plan to be nimble enough to transition to Plan B or C if situations beyond our control require us to do so.

Some possible causes for us transitioning to Remote Learning are:

- If the state guidelines for schools or group gatherings change.
 - If we move backwards in the state re-opening plans (phase 1 or 1.5)
 - If we need to quarantine for a COVID case on campus
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How did we come up with these 3 plans?

We have been monitoring and making plans and protocols based on recommendations from the CDC, OSPI, WIAA, DOH, CCR and DCYF. As a small school we are able to adapt in ways that large schools and institutions can not. We also know our God has much planned for all involved in the FCS ministry and He will pass on His wisdom regardless of situation. We have already learned so much from Him and continue to gain more insight, perspective and wisdom with each passing day. In order to come back together in person, we feel it is wise to follow these protocols and have had 0 cases of COVID-19 on campus as we have continued to implement these policies and procedures. Our goal is to have classes on campus in as “normal” of a way as possible. The health and safety of our staff and students is very important to us, so we are well prepared and we are remaining flexible as we realize God continues to teach us to be just that (as well as patient), adjusting protocols as needed.

Screening, Masks & Face Shields

How will we reduce possible COVID transmission?

- Our regular school schedule already included cohort/pod grouping, so that will not be changing and will continue to help mediate spread. We have also added additional recess areas, to have students playing in those cohorts/pods until safe to do otherwise.
- There will be no campus-wide gatherings and there will be minimal interaction across cohorts to help minimize any potential transmission.
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will be required with handwashing a part of the regular schedule (this, too, was already a part of the regular classroom schedule.
- Classroom furniture will be rearranged so desks and students are distanced further apart, as guided.
- All staff and students over the age of 5 will be wearing face masks or shields as well.

What is the daily screening process for students?

Daily health screenings will involve daily checks for symptoms and a daily temperature check when you arrive on campus. Hands free (no touch) thermometers that read temperatures in less than 1 second have been placed at each school entrance. Temperatures will be checked before entering as well as mid-day.

We will not be permitting any students or staff on campus who have a fever, who have been exposed to COVID, and/or have other possible COVID symptoms. This, is not very different in what we require as students, in general, displaying signs of sickness should stay home.

What if my child doesn't feel well, has a temperature, or exhibits other symptoms at school?

Your child will need to go directly to the "sick room" if they have a fever or other symptoms. Office staff will notify parents by phone and will expect any children with symptoms to be picked up from campus within 1 hour of that phone call. While in the sick room, your child will need to keep a face mask on.

Office staff may wear additional PPE (gloves, face mask as well as shield, etc) and take your child's temperature and do a basic symptom screening. If your child is ill at school, they will need to stay home until symptom free, plus 10 days or 3 days with a negative COVID test. If your child has been exposed to someone with COVID, they will need to be quarantined for 14 days.

If in doubt, and your child doesn't feel well before coming to school (with any symptoms of illness), please opt to keep them at home for the safety of all SCS students and staff. They will still be able to engage in learning and participate remotely. This is vital for us to keep on-campus learning happening.

Screening, Masks & Face Shields

Are visitors/parent volunteers still allowed on campus?

We love our families and still welcome their help on campus. However, campus visitors, specialists and volunteers will be more limited during this time. The volunteer help may look different and may involve less student interaction. All parents and visitors who exit their cars will be required to wear a mask and to check in at the office for a health screening before entering any campus buildings. During drop off time we ask that you say goodbye to your child outside of their school building and not enter. Your goodbye routine may look different, particularly if you have a younger student. During pick up we ask that you do not exit your car. Your child will be brought to you to promote further social distancing. Please refer to the Pick Up & Drop Off Handout.

Will staff be wearing masks?

All staff and visitors on campus will be required to wear masks (barring a doctor-written health directive not to). Some teachers may also choose to wear face shields at times when interacting with students closer than 6 ft. L&I has updated their guidance to allow staff to wear face shields when a face covering reduces the effectiveness of instruction. This is determined by the educator leading the instruction. For all other activities (staff meetings, hallway monitoring, playground or cafeteria monitoring, etc.), staff must wear a cloth face covering unless they fit into one of the exemption categories.

Will my child need to wear a mask?

Per local guidelines, masks should be worn for students 5 years and older (1st grade and up). All students from Grades 1-12 will be required to wear a mask during transitions, entering and exiting the building and when required social distancing can not occur. Students will have time without a mask on, to include appropriate social distancing, all recess, P.E. and lunch/snack breaks. At the beginning of the year, staff will demonstrate proper techniques for wearing and removing masks. Students must wear a clean mask from home each day. An additional masks should be stored in the students bag or classroom in a labeled Ziplock bag. Bandanas and neck gaiters are also okay.

Will my child get breaks without a mask?

We are closely following the ever-changing research and protocols for masks in schools. In addition to the times listed above, teachers will also facilitate socially distanced “mask breaks” into the school day. Many activities can also take place in socially distanced areas to help facilitate this.

Logos, etc. on face masks, bandanas and/or neck gaitors?

As in following with our regular school dress code, we do not follow anyone but the Lord. Political endorsements will not be allowed on mask, bandanas or neck gaitors. We are Jesus followers and do not want to open the door to wasted time due to what is displayed on a face mask, bandana or neck gaitor. If images are present, they must be conservative in nature, school appropriate and not political.

Masks & Face Shields

What if my child forgot their mask?

The students should always have an emergency mask at the school and are not allowed to enter school without one on. If a mask is damaged and a secondary mask is not available, the school will have a back-up supply of disposable mask, but they will not regularly be handed out.. Students will be asked to keep 2 extra masks at school just in case they forget or if one gets dirty during the school day.

Can my child wear a face shield instead of a mask?

There are benefits and drawbacks to both face masks and face shields. If your child has a difficult time breathing regularly through a face mask, keeping a face mask on or for medical reasons is advised not to wear a mask, a face shield is currently an acceptable alternative. We have asked students in Pre-K through Grade 2 to have face shields so that they can be used in distanced learning, as well. This is subject to change based on medical data and local guidelines. If your child does choose to wear a face shield, please receive approval from the school first and please make sure that they are properly trained in how to wear it, and always have a clean face mask in their backpack or locker as back-up.

Can my child have a mask waiver?

If you do not feel your child should wear a mask due to health or sensory concerns, you will be required to submit a signed note from their Pediatrician to the school office

In Case Of Symptoms

If a person believes they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, but they are not sick, they should quarantine at home and watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the person sick with COVID-19. They should not go to work, child care, school, or public places for 14 days. Students can participate in remote learning during this time. **Taking these extra precautions will help all students remain in person. If precautions are not taken, it is likely the school will have to close due to COVID outbreak (depending on the situation, this could mean an entire class or the whole school, so please take this seriously).**

What will happen if someone from FCS tests positive for COVID?

If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, their family should notify the school immediately. Schools do not necessarily have to close when there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID. Once a case has been confirmed, local health authorities will advise the school on next steps, and it is likely that many of the other students or staff who were in close contact with the infected individual will need to self-quarantine for 14 days. Depending on the specific circumstances, we may be able to close some cohorts and not others. For this reason, it is necessary to stay home if you are not sure if you should be going to school. **Again, extra precautions will help keep us in person.**

What if a staff or student have COVID like symptoms?

A staff member or student who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to the school when:

At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery – defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like cough and shortness of breath;

AND at least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up.

OR A health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Learning On-Campus & At-Home

What if I don't feel comfortable having my child on campus?

If you do not feel safe having your child attend class on campus, please let us know. We have increased our technology capabilities and planned for the possibility of a synchronous hybrid model for those who need it for health or other reasons. We plan to do our best to support all learners and all family situations.

What will synchronous learning look like for elementary grades?

Students will still be engaging in hands on learning and regular curriculum. Teachers will be live teaching via Vedamo. Students will have a morning and afternoon session. We are also able to modify screen time, etc., if necessary.

What will synchronous learning look like for middle school and high school?

Your middle school student will be able to "join" their classes from home. We will offer synchronous learning where students can participate in each of their academic classes with their peers. They will follow the same bell schedule and get the same instruction as their peers who are on campus. They can ask questions and participate in discussions. They can also communicate with their teachers via in person and via email, as needed. The whole school will be using the online teaching platform, Vedamo. Middle school and high school will also use Google Classroom.

If students are in need of an electronic device, they will be available to borrow with a signed check out and return slip as well as a holding deposit should the device not be returned or not be returned in the same condition. If students need to borrow a school device, it can not be used for anything other than school and factory settings should not be changed. No additional installations of software will be allowed.

Recess & Extra Curriculars

What will Elementary recess look like?

All students and staff will wash their hands before and after each recess. There will also be staggered or assigned cohort areas during recess time. The extra recess areas will help with spacing and give kids more activities to participate in.

Will there be field trips?

The state/OSPI have advised that large student gatherings, such as field trips, be cancelled. We hope to get back to off-campus learning and field trips as soon as it is safe to do so.

What will lunch be like?

Students should wash hands at the beginning and end of lunch. Students are discouraged from sharing any food. Seating and spacing at lunch will need to follow social distancing protocols. FCS students already held lunch in their classrooms. This will continue this school year. Students will wipe down their personal lunch space after they eat.

What will music look like?

For first semester, music classes will contain rhythmic instrument learning and instrument making and/or students will participate in drama/theater.

What will MS/HS sports look like?

Athletics will follow all local and state guidelines for safe operation. Including health screenings before practice and competitions for all participants. Masks will be required when not performing strenuous activities. Social distancing on benches during competitions. Routine cleaning of equipment and facilities. We plan to offer any sports that WIAA and state guidelines allow us to.

What extracurricular activities will be available?

Extracurricular activities are available after school beginning in October. Please go to the school website to sign up and to follow any updates regarding after school, extracurricular activities. After school activities include robotics, art, tumbling and homework help (extended care).

Miscellaneous

How will we worship together?

While Chapel will not be whole school at this time and will have a different look for a while this doesn't mean worship isn't happening on campus. We will have to get creative with worship and learn about all of the different ways we can praise our Creator.

Will the school have any community events?

We desire community and gathering together as much as the rest of the FCS community..As soon as we can safely do so in person, we will add events to the calendar.

Are any changes or improvements to cleaning or janitorial services planned?

Yes, we are making sure to meet COVID standards. All high-touch surfaces will be cleaned daily. Teachers, and in some grades students, will also engage in sanitizing work areas during the day. Additional transition spaces have been created to allow for clearing throughout the school day. We also have a donor providing additional clearing and HVAC services.