

REUNITED: Back to School

Fall 2020 Re-entry Plan Update

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to be thoughtful and comprehensive in our approach to welcoming everyone back to campus. We know that together we are better, and in every decision, we have kept this belief at the forefront of our minds. Over the past few months, our Executive Leadership Team and Academic Team have developed and continue to refine not only our return to campus for the 2020-2021 school year, but also both safety and learning continuity for our students and staff.

Knowing that sources and recommendations can vary drastically from one another, we have spent much time asking the Lord for wisdom and discernment as we researched, collaborated, and sought wise counsel with as many sources as possible. Below are a few that guided us:

- *SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance*, Texas Education Agency, August 4, 2020
<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/SY-20-21-Public-Health-Guidance.pdf>
- *COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry*, American Academy of Pediatrics, June 25, 2020
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/#:~:text=Consider%20having%20students%20cohorted%2C%20potentially,Utilize%20outdoor%20spaces%20when%20possible.>
- Texas Governor Greg Abbott's *Executive Orders*, through GA29 issued on July 2, 2020
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/execorders.aspx>
- *Schools for Health: Risk Reduction Strategies for Reopening Schools*, Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, 2020
<https://schools.forhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/06/Harvard-Healthy-Buildings-Program-Schools-For-Health-Reopening-Covid19-June2020.pdf>
- *COVID-19: Guidance for School Reopening*, The Hospital for Sick Children (affiliated with the University of Toronto), July 29, 2020
<https://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf>
- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's *Letter to Religious Private Schools in Texas*, July 17, 2020
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/admin/2020/Press/2020.07.17%20Letter%20to%20Religious%20Schools%20re%20COVID%2019%20Orders%20-%20Final.pdf>
- *Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated August 1, 2020
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>

PARTNERING TOGETHER

Keeping our campus healthy will be a collective effort, one we are asking everyone in our school community to support. It will be important for everyone to perform daily screenings and to notify the school immediately should anyone test positive for COVID-19 or reside with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. **Please STAY HOME when you are not feeling well, have COVID-19 symptoms, or have potentially been directly exposed.**

On July 10, 2020, you received an email that gave you a comprehensive review for our Re-Entry Plan. Please continue to refer to our Re-Entry Plan found on our famf.org website. It remains fluid as changes continue.

This update explains what you can expect on the first day of school, August 18, 2020.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

• Parental Responsibilities

- It is the family's responsibility to screen children before each school day and to **keep symptomatic children at home**, especially children with temperatures at or over 100.4 degrees. The CDC currently does not recommend schools conduct widespread symptom screenings. It suggests parents check their children at home before coming to school.
- Symptoms to screen for include:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4* F
 - Fatigue
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing or a change in a chronic cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New onset of a severe headache
 - Sore throat, congestion, or runny nose
 - Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- **Students should STAY HOME even if they have only very mild symptoms, and when a household member is sick, students should stay home too.**
- Notify the school at absent@famf.org or (830) 798-1333 if your student is exhibiting any of these symptoms and will be absent.
- Teach and reinforce proper hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, and proper use of and removal of face masks.
- Students have the option of keeping their face coverings on at all times. Discuss with your student(s) your plan for whether they will or will not wear face coverings when it is optional. Faith Academy will not be able to monitor whether students are or are not following parental plans.

ARRIVAL TO CAMPUS

- **Drop Off**
 - Parents who are dropping off students need to follow the traffic path to the right of the parking lot and pull forward to the end of the sidewalk in front of the Admin Building. Students have the option of wearing a face covering at drop off.
 - Parents who are walking in with their students need to park in the paved spots (the graveled spots are reserved for student parking). Parents and students have the option of wearing face coverings if they remain outside.
 - Staff will continue to greet families at drop off.
- **Entering Public Spaces**
 - The Administration Building, Student Center, and the Gym and Britton Track and Field during athletic, social, and extra-curricular events are considered public spaces on Faith Academy campus.
 - Per Governor Abbott's Executive Order on July 2, 2020, anyone ten and older who is not exempt from the executive order must wear a face covering when entering public spaces.
 - Before entering a designated public space, hands must be sanitized. Sanitization stations will be set up in front of all public spaces.
 - Once the school day begins at 8:15, the Student Center, the Gym, and Britton Track and Field are not considered public spaces unless being used for a public meeting or event.
- **Elementary Morning Meeting**
 - Anyone ten and older must wear a face covering upon entrance to the Student Center for Morning Meeting.
 - Hands must be sanitized before entering the Student Center. A sanitization station will be set up at the entryway.
 - Students will be grouped into cohorts by their grade level.
- **Ordering Lunch**
 - Anyone wishing to order Subway or Holy Smokes must print and fill out an order form before arriving on campus. These forms will not be provided on campus.
 - Baskets will be outside the Student Center for students to drop off their completed order form by 10:00 a.m.

ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS Kinder Prep – 4th Grade

Maintaining as much normalcy as possible while meeting the spiritual and emotional well-being, safety, and academic needs of our students is our priority.

- Every Kinder Prep through 4th grade classroom has a wash sink and a bathroom or access to a bathroom. Students and teachers will have time for handwashing built into their daily schedule such as at the beginning of the day, before and after lunch, after recess, and before leaving school.
- Students and teachers have the option of wearing masks in non-public spaces.

- Cognizant of TEA guidelines and recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics, classrooms will be configured to maximize spacing between students, allowing for no less than three feet, but ideally six feet.
- Using CDC-/FDA- approved products such as Decon 30, frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned daily and shared objects will be cleaned after each use.
- Deep cleaning of classrooms and vents (including the use of a fogging machine) using CDC-/FDA approved products such as Decon 30 will be done once a week.

SECONDARY CLASSROOMS (F.L.A.M.E.S. BUILDINGS)

Maintaining as much normalcy as possible while meeting the spiritual and emotional well-being and academic and safety needs of our students is our priority.

- **During Class**

- Students are requested to wear face coverings when entering and exiting classrooms.
- Students will sanitize hands when entering classrooms.
- Students have the option to wear face coverings at their desks and as they move about the classroom when physical distancing can be maintained.
- Teachers have the option to wear face coverings as they instruct and as they move about the classroom when physical distancing can be maintained.
- Cognizant of TEA guidelines and recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics, classrooms will be configured to maximize spacing between students, allowing for no less than three feet, but ideally six feet.
- Using CDC-/FDA- approved products such as Decon 30, frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned between classes and shared objects will be cleaned after each use.
- Deep cleaning of classrooms and vents (including use of a fogging machine) using CDC-/EPA- approved products such as Decon 30 will be done once a week.

- **Between Classes**

- Faith Academy is blessed to have 28 acres as our home which gives us the opportunity to maximize outdoor time as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and TEA.
- Students and staff have the option to wear face coverings when outside public buildings.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged in outdoor spaces if students are not moving, exercising, or playing.
- Water fountains will be turned off on campus. Students need to bring enough water to last them throughout the day.

LUNCH

- Students will enter the Student Center through the front entrance only.
- Students will exit the Student Center through the two back exits only.
- Students must sanitize hands upon entering and exiting the Student Center.
- Students may not use microwaves. Only lunch monitors will be allowed to heat up students' lunches using the microwaves.
- Physical distancing is encouraged during lunch. Extra tables and chairs and outside seating areas are provided.

- Students may still leave campus for lunch.

RECESS

- **Elementary**

- Faith Academy is blessed to have 28 acres as our home which gives us the opportunity to maximize outdoor time as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and TEA. Whenever possible, recess will take place outside.
- Students will play within their grade level cohorts.
- Students and teachers have the option of wearing face coverings when outside.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged in outdoor spaces if students are not moving, exercising, or playing.
- Students and teachers will wash or sanitize hands before returning to class.
- Commonly used equipment and objects will be sanitized at the end of recess.

- **Junior High**

- Faith Academy is blessed to have 28 acres as our home which gives us the opportunity to maximize outdoor time as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and TEA. Whenever possible, recess will take place outside; otherwise, recess will be in the gym.
- Students will be divided into grade level cohorts.
- If the gym is being used for junior high recess, students must sanitize hands before entering the gym.
- Students and teachers have the option of wearing face coverings when inside or outside.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged in indoor and outdoor spaces if students are not moving, exercising, or playing.
- Students and teachers will sanitize hands before returning to class.

CHAPEL

- **Elementary**

- Faith Academy is blessed to have 28 acres as our home which gives us the opportunity to maximize outdoor time as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and TEA. Whenever possible, chapel will take place outside.
- Students in chapel will be grouped into grade level cohorts.
- Before arriving at their chapel location, all students will wash or sanitize hands.

- **Secondary**

- Faith Academy is blessed to have 28 acres as our home which gives us the opportunity to maximize outdoor time as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and TEA. Whenever possible, chapel will take place outside.
- Chapel will look a little different for secondary students this year.
 - Corporate chapel will occur once a month with junior high students having a separate chapel service from high school students.

- Once a month students will be divided into four cohorts- junior high and high school Women of God and junior high and high school Men of God (WOG and MOG). Each cohort will meet in a different location.
 - Fellowship Fridays will occur once a month for junior high students and once a month for high school students.
 - Once a month students will attend an assembly, a pep rally, or a social event.
- Students will sanitize hands before entering and upon dismissal of scheduled chapel activity.
- Students will be divided into grade level cohorts for their chapel activity.
- Students have the option of wearing a mask during their chapel activity.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged in indoor and outdoor spaces if students are not moving, exercising, or playing.

VISITORS

• Parents and Family Members

- A common value in University-Model Schools is that parents and staff are partners. Therefore, we want parents on campus to contribute to and foster strong connections and community.
- At the same time, in an attempt to protect our students and to follow guidelines recommended by the TEA, we ask that parent and family member visits to campus be kept at a minimum during the first three weeks as we focus on helping our students and faculty adjust to new procedures and routines.
- If parents or family members need to visit campus, other than morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, they will need to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 and sanitize hands before checking in at the Admin building.
- Parents and family members must wear face coverings in public spaces in adherence of Governor Abbott's Executive Order on July 2, 2020.

• Guests

- In an attempt to protect our students and to follow guidelines recommended by the TEA, guests will not be allowed to interact with students at this time.
- Guests who need to visit campus must report to the Admin building wearing a face covering upon entrance.
- Guests will be asked to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19, have their temperature taken, and sanitize hands immediately upon entrance into the Admin building.

ATHLETICS

More instructions and detailed information based on ongoing guidelines from T.A.P.P.S. regarding practices, competitions, and spectators will be communicated soon.

• Gym

- Deep cleaning of the gym floor using a CDC-/FDA- approved cleaning agent such as Decon 30 will occur twice a week.
- Deep cleaning of stands using a CDC-/FDA- approved cleaning agent will occur after every game.

- Water fountains will be turned off. Athletes need to bring enough water to last them throughout the workout or event.
- At this time, to better maintain a safe environment, all practices will be closed. Only athletes and coaches are allowed in the gym during practice.
- A sanitizing station will be set up at the gym entrance. All athletes must sanitize hands before entering and upon exiting the gym.
- All shared surfaces and commonly used objects will be cleaned using a CDC-/FDA-approved product after each team completes its workout or game.
- **Britton Track and Field**
 - All coaches, athletes, and fans must sanitize hands before entering the field, track, and stands. A sanitizing station will be provided near the elementary school entrance.
 - All shared surfaces and objects will be sanitized after every team workout.
 - Water may not be provided for athletes. Athletes need to be prepared to bring enough water to last them throughout the workout or event.
 - Only athletes, coaches, field and track crew, and officials are allowed on the track and/or field.
- **Weight Room**
 - Only athletes on the same team will be allowed to use the weight room at a given time.
 - Shared surfaces and commonly used objects will be sanitized using a CDC-/FDA-approved product after each team completes their work out.
 - Deep cleaning of locker room (including the use of a fogging machine) using a CDC-/FDA-approved agent will occur once a week.
- **Locker Room**
 - Locker rooms will be cleaned daily using CDC-/FDA-approved products.
 - Soap and hand sanitizers will be provided in all bathrooms.
 - Lockers will be assigned to current in-season varsity athletes.
 - Deep cleaning of locker room and vents (including the use of a fogging machine) using a CDC-/FDA-approved agent will occur once a week.
 - Athletes will be required to maintain cleanliness of the locker room keeping their items within their assigned locker, picking up trash, and cleaning up area after using showers and wash sinks.

God has truly blessed Faith Academy and placed us in an advantageous situation. Because of our large, open-air campus and the smaller number of households enrolled, we are better able to implement safety protocols that meet our needs while allowing a sense of normalcy.

This school year will no doubt hold many challenges. However, as a people of faith, we remain confident that God is with us to meet every one of those challenges. Though we take the threat of COVID-19 seriously, we also firmly believe in our sovereign God who promises to walk with us, provide for us, and watch over us so that we need not fear or be afraid.