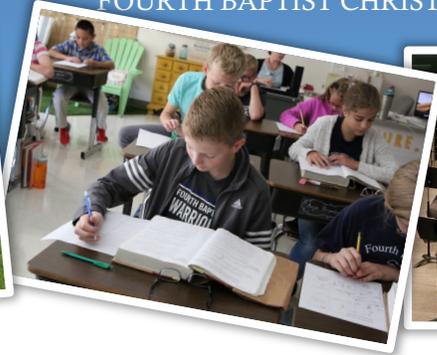


REOPENING UPDATE

FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Students:

Plans are still in place and moving forward for an August 31 start date for FBCS. Much is happening concerning Executive Orders and school planning from our government. The current Executive Order from our governor requires masks or face shields in schools that are opening in-person. There is much debate about this topic, and you will be reading more about this in the coming weeks. My understanding is that the current Executive Order requiring face masks or shields expires mid-August, but the governor may renew the order or create a new order. The State Legislature has the power to terminate the governor's peacetime powers. This is the check and balance of our government. The governor, however, has the backing of the DFL majority State House and they will not fight the governor or follow the lead of our Republican State Senate who has voted repeatedly to terminate the Governor's Executive Orders. Feel free to contact your area State Representative and tell him how

you feel. This is our right as citizens of the state of MN. You can find out who your district state representative is by going to <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>.

Having said that, if we were to start school tomorrow, within the bounds of this current Executive Order, our school would require face shields in the classroom and masks in other situations. Students would be free to wear masks if they would rather. The shields are not as restrictive as masks and they are approved under the Executive Order for classrooms and they allow the teacher and student to see each other's faces. At present, this would be the only change to our "Reopening Plan" sent last week to our school constituency. Our school is looking into purchasing these face shields at a discounted price to have on hand if the order is renewed and required. There may also be other changes that are mandated in order to start school on the 31st. At this point, we believe that our Reopening Plan can move forward with the potential change regarding

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masks/face shields. Face masks and shields are not required for four- or five-year-old students. Because things are changing rapidly, rules and requirements may change. Please look for email updates weekly as we get closer to the start of school.

Up until yesterday, we had few new student inquiries, but yesterday and today have been quite different. Several calls have come our way and new families representing students of all ages are looking at our school. There are several grades that we are needing to create waiting lists for. We are encouraging our families to pay their registration fees if they have not done so. If you have questions, please contact Miss Mary at mwickham@fourthbaptist.org.

There have been several cancellations to the beginning of the year calendar events. The Rosemount Jamboree has been canceled due to limited gym space at Rosemount. The IRBC Secondary Retreat has also been cancelled for this year. However, preseason sports will start for soccer and volleyball the week of August 17, and next week, we are going ahead with our soccer and volleyball camps. More will be sent home later this week about soccer/volleyball camp.

If you decide to come to soccer and volleyball camp, we ask that you please adhere to the following rules:

- Please reasonably distance from other students, even your friends who you may not have seen for a while.
- We are asking students not to hug each other, share water bottles or food. Students should bring their own water bottle with their name labeled

on the bottle, and come dressed to play.

- Locker rooms will not be available for changing.
- Students and parents entering the facility should have on a face mask to honor our governor's Executive Order, but students can remove it once in the gym for the camp.
- Please follow the directions of your coaches.
- Registration will happen on Monday morning, but please come early (especially on Monday) as we will be taking participant temperatures each day prior to camp.

There are many additional burdens placed upon us due to the mandates of government and we are doing our best to provide a safe environment for all our events. We are going to need your patience and help. Please know that FBCS will do everything it can to offer a great school experience starting on August 31st.

We will keep you posted weekly.

Thank you.

In Christ,
Mr. Hodak

Alan J. Hodak, Administrator
Fourth Baptist Christian School

Christ-Centered Academic Excellence!

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