



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Equipping Students for Lives of Christian Service

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Dear LHS Families,

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" - Philippians 4:13.

There is no question that we are "living in interesting times." This English expression is often thought to be a blessing; however, its roots may actually be as a curse, as life in "uninteresting times" implies a time of routine and stability. Due to COVID-19, we are living in interesting times – our daily routines are anything **BUT** routine and stable. However, we need not fear the challenges presented to us, for each of us knows and trusts the words of Paul stated above.

For the past several months, an LHS task force consisting of teachers, coaches, and administrators have been developing, analyzing, and evaluating contingency planning options to maximize our commitment to Academic Excellence and Christian Service in the upcoming 2020 – 2021 school year. The task force utilized input from parent, student, and teacher surveys, along with suggestions and guidelines provided by governmental, educational, and health care experts to develop our *Continuity of Learning Plan* to start the 2020 – 2021 school year. Based on task force recommendation, **LHS will begin the school year in-person on Thursday, August 13!**

The Continuity of Learning Plan provides your children, our students, with an emphasis on safety and best educational experience in these circumstances. The plan is based on the following assumptions:

- Face-to-face school is the best mode of education for students
- Social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and face coverings help reduce disease transmission
- It is impossible to *eliminate* risk, we will however *reduce* risk
- Some individuals will be uncomfortable returning to group settings at this time

The plan was built to provide flexibility and inclusiveness, with the ultimate goal to minimize the impact of possible disruptions if situations change at any point in the year. To address this possibility, LHS is preparing for 3 possible modes of instruction which will allow us to adapt as circumstances warrant:

1. **In-Person** . . . students on campus with modifications to the schedule and daily routine. *This is the mode in which we will start the year.*
2. **Hybrid** . . . half of the students on campus, and half attending remotely on alternating days
3. **On-line** . . . all students utilizing remote instruction at home. Similar to the mode we recently concluded for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

Families that are uncomfortable sending their child to school for **In-person**, or **Hybrid** learning may have their child remain home for online instruction by signing a "Commitment to On-line Learning" form prior to the start of school. These students will remain at home, streaming instruction for the duration of the quarter (9 weeks). Please note, selecting this option will result in the student not being eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities during that quarter.

Contingency planning requires that students, parents, teachers, and administrators be prepared to quickly transition to a different mode if campus, community, state or national circumstances warrant a change. LHS will evaluate the effectiveness of the plan each quarter (every 9 weeks), to assure proper balance of safety and quality education. Additional details on each mode of education will be provided in this week's Friday letter.

In addition to the three possible modes of instruction, LHS will implement new practices and procedures to improve the safety of the school environment. Some of these modifications come at the cost of perceived comfort and convenience; however, the cooperation of ALL students, parents, and teachers, will allow LHS to continue to provide academic excellence. These practice and procedure modifications include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **All faculty, staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear a mask at all times when inside the building.** Face masks will be optional outside of the building.
2. **Where feasible, 6' social distancing will be practiced.**
3. **On campus students, faculty, and staff will be screened daily prior to Block 1;** temperatures will be checked, and screening questions will be asked each day. Symptomatic individuals will be immediately separated from others and sent home as soon as possible.
4. **Building cleaning and disinfecting practices will be expanded and enhanced . . .** teachers will oversee the sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces at the end of every class period.
5. **Parents and students will be required to sign a "Commitment to Health" document** which verifies understanding of when students should stay home and an agreement to abide by school guidelines and practices for health and safety.

As stated earlier, additional details will be provided beginning with this week's Friday letter. We recognize the critical importance of timely and consistent communications to address this continually evolving situation. When the pandemic closed schools this past March, LHS students, parents, faculty, and staff rose to the occasion – maintaining standards and accepting nothing less than our very best from ourselves and each other. By God's grace, we set an example for others to follow; we are confident the same will occur in this new school year. To Him be the Glory!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to the start of the school year on August 13! *#ClassinSession!*

Go Cougars!

Dr. Craig Ernstmeyer
Head of School

Mr. Jon Bernhardt
Principal