

ZLS 2021-2022

COVID-19 Return to School Plan



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July 21, 2021

## ZLS 2021-2022 Return to School Plan

At ZLS we give thanks to God for the students and families that He has blessed us with. We are dedicated to providing a safe environment where our students are strengthened in their faith and engaged in both academic and social experiences that result in growth, confidence, and problem solving. ZLS serves children and assists parents so that God's Kingdom may be enlarged and so that our world may be blessed by the influences of our students.

We are so grateful to our families for last year's cooperation in following the protocols that enabled us to maintain a school where we were open with in-class learning. Throughout these trying times of the pandemic, ZLS remains committed to making decisions in the best interest of our students and staff. With the provision of a vaccine, more knowledge on COVID-19, and the county numbers going down, Zion Lutheran School Board has made the following guidelines based on the recommendations of CDC which were issued July 9, 2021, ISBE, IDPH, and local health agencies.

These guidelines may change as ZLS will continue to work to lessen the spread of COVID-19 within our community. These mitigations will be based on local tier levels.

### Health and Safety Protocols

- *Practice physical distancing*
- *Students will stay in one classroom as much as possible and teachers will move.*
- *Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. (Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Wash your hands with soap and water. )*
- *Frequent handwashing*
- *When entering or exiting the classroom, hand sanitizer will be used.*
- *Teachers will use limited community supplies.*
- *Students will have assigned desks.*
- *Parents must relay specific symptoms to the office staff if calling a student in sick. This is necessary for illness tracking as required by IDPH.*
- *Promotion of mitigation practices such as staying home when sick.*
- *Posted signs throughout the building promoting safe practices.*
- *Proper ventilations and increased air circulation (opening doors and windows where possible).*
- *Food consumption will be in smaller, controlled settings to avoid large groups.*

- *Drinking fountains will be shut off. Bottle refillers will be available when supervision can be provided.*
- *Outdoor activities and classes will be held when possible.*
- *Birthday treats/snacks must be unopened, individually wrapped and store bought (not homemade).*
- *Regular cleaning and disinfecting throughout the building (frequently touched objects and surfaces will be cleaned using regular household cleaning sprays or wipes like toys, desks, door handles, counters, etc.).*
- *Per ISBE guidelines, a separate location will be established for any student who becomes ill or exhibits signs and symptoms of illness during the school day. Parents will be required to pick up their child or make necessary arrangements if they become ill.*

### Masks

The CDC recommends that students and staff that are unvaccinated wear masks. Zion Lutheran School Board recommends individuals that have not been vaccinated wear a mask while in the building but is leaving the decision to wear a mask up to the parents and staff members. If the school and community transmission rates increase the mask recommendations will be modified as outlined in our mitigation levels. Whether masking or not masking, we will respect each family's decision and treat each other with Christian love and respect. You can help in reiterating this in your homes. Thank you!

### Visitors and Office Procedures

Although we love to have visitors, we will continue to limit visitors in our building. Visitors will only be allowed by appointment. Anyone entering the school as a visitor will be required to supply a phone number and address in case of illness tracking is initiated. Parents will be allowed into the foyer one at a time and will communicate with the administrative assistant through an intercom. If a child needs to leave school early, the parent will sign out their student and wait in the foyer.

Please utilize the locked drop boxes for payments and forms. Call or email the office for information about payments and balances that are due (i.e., lunch money). Private financial information cannot be shared over the intercom in the foyer.

### Educational Model

Zion Lutheran School's goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to provide for the instructional needs with in-person learning.

## Drop Off Procedure

We will have two drop off times to help promote social distancing.

- If your child is in the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, their drop off time is at 8:00. If you have a child in grades Preschool-4<sup>th</sup> grade, their drop off time is 8:10. If your children are in two different time slots, please drop them off at 8:00.
- Please park following ZLS parking procedures.
- Parents of younger children are encouraged to walk their children to the side gym door.

Students will enter the building at the side gym. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will move directly to their assigned classroom. Preschoolers - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will go to their designated spot in the gym.

Preventing the spread of COVID begins at home. Before sending your child to school each day, you need to make sure that:

- That your child does not have a fever of 100.4 degrees or above.
- That your child does not have any of the following symptoms related to COVID-19 or other contagious illness that cannot otherwise be explained.
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Extreme fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headaches
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

Students with a fever or any of the symptoms above should stay home and seek medical advice. By sending your child to school, you are certifying that your child is not displaying any of the above symptoms that cannot otherwise be explained.

## Early Arrivals (7:00-7:55 a.m.)

Early arrivals will still be dropped off in the back of the building. Students will have an assigned space in the cafeteria during the early arrival time and will be expected to stay in this space until dismissed for the beginning of the school day.

## Illness

Parents are to notify the **office** by 8:20 a.m. when their child will be absent. Be prepared to explain what is wrong with your child so we can keep a record of all illnesses of our students. For everyone's protection, if your child is sick, please practice common sense and Christian love and keep them at home.

If your child exhibits two or more COVID-19 symptoms, your child will require clearance from a medical provider before returning to school.

## Confirmed Case(s)

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to school after ALL of these apply:

- They exhibit no COVID-19 symptoms.
- 10 days since date of positive test results **or** directed by a doctor or the Logan County Health Department.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at ZLS, an email will be sent home notifying parents if their child has been in close contact with the individual that has tested positive. The school will clean, disinfect, and sanitize the building per the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines and will work closely with the Logan County Health Department. The school will follow appropriate quarantine procedures by IDPH. This may include the closing of a classroom or the school for a period of time and shifting to remote learning.

Rooms with a positive case will be completely cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized and unoccupied for an appropriate amount of time as deemed by the IDPH.

**Close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 3 feet of a person that tested positive for COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes without face covering.**

If a COVID-19 symptomatic member of your household is awaiting results from a COVID-19 test, your unvaccinated child should stay home pending test results.

Please exercise extreme caution while traveling.

### Illness Monitoring

ZLS implements a recording process for tracking student and staff symptoms and illnesses.

ZLS families are encouraged to report specific symptoms, COVID-19 diagnoses, and COVID-19 exposures when reporting absences.

ZLS will report to the Logan County Health Department all confirmed cases of COVID-19. ZLS will maintain student and staff privacy rights during this reporting process.

### Social and Emotional Support

Social and emotional support will be provided by ZLS teachers. ZLS students are viewed as precious gifts from God. His love will be shown and given to His children. Prayer will be a big aspect in dealing with this year. Outside resources may be recommended if needed.

### Schedule

ZLS will adhere to the approved 2021-2022 academic calendar. ZLS will be in session daily from 8:15 to 3:00.

ZLS will begin admittance to school at 8:00 am. All students are expected to be in classroom attendance at 8:15 am.

### Academic

ZLS will teach religion and the core subjects. They will be assessed following the grading system in the Parent Handbook.

### Playground

The playground at ZLS will be used. All playground equipment that has been used will be cleaned after use.

### Chapel

ZLS will conduct Chapel services weekly to share the message of the Gospel with students. Chapel will be arranged with social distancing.

### Lunch/Cafeteria

ZLS students will have regular choice of hot or cold lunch during the 2021-2022 school year.

Students will have assigned seats in the cafeteria, classroom or gym which will be appropriately socially distanced.

### Physical Education

Students will not use the locker rooms to change for P.E.

### Music

ZLS will continue to provide music instruction. This will include appropriate spacing for music classes. Students in instrumental music will continue to be provided individual or small group lessons.

### Remote Learning

Remote learning is not ZLS's preferred method of instruction due to the value of in-person learning and Christian fellowship. If ZLS must be closed due to COVID-19 the students and parents will use *Google Classroom* to communicate with their teacher(s), and access their classes, lessons, and some homework. Regularly scheduled packet pick-up and drop off will also be used for other assigned work.

Teachers will use *Google Classroom* to mirror classroom content as close as possible. Assignments assigned will follow learning standards as normal to a typical classroom assignment.

Connections will be made weekly or more often with parents.

Teachers will be available from 7:30-3:30. Parents and students may email the teacher(s) outside of that time frame, but teachers may not respond until the next day.

Expectations of students:

- Be available for assigned virtual meetings.
- Sit at a table or desk so your device is on a flat surface.
- Have a quiet work space where you can work or be online.
- Make sure your camera is on so your teacher and classmates can see you.
- Please do not use the chat box unless you are instructed to.

- Be respectful and kind. Listen to others. Take turns speaking.
- Avoid any distractions (pets, phones, television, etc.)
- Submit completed work on time.
- Check your Google Classroom several times a day.

Virtual meetings will be important to attend each day when offered. Teachers will try to provide recordings in case you cannot attend at the scheduled time.

Grading will be based on the scale listed in the ZLS Parent Handbook.

Attendance will be taken each day using Google Classroom. Your child will be counted absent if they do not respond in the format set up by the teacher for attendance taking.

### Dismissing from School

- PK will dismiss at 2:45
- Kindergarten will dismiss at 2:48
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will dismiss at 2:51
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> will dismiss at 2:54
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will dismiss at 2:57
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will dismiss at 3:00

Students will dismiss at the front door. Please make sure you are parked. All parking lot procedures should be followed. If you are a parent of a younger child, please come to the concrete divider and then cross to pick up your child. Please practice social distancing. It is important that you are prompt in picking up your child after school. The teachers have cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing to complete plus their normal paper work and planning.

### Extracurricular Activities

Activities will be held this year based on what our co-op schools are planning. Students will need to follow the Co-op school's guidelines. ZLS extracurricular activities will be based on available coaches and volunteers.

### Communication will occur through:

- Google Classroom
- Weekly teacher emails
- School emails
- Tuesday Note (via email)
- Website - [www.zls-linc.org](http://www.zls-linc.org)
- ZLS Facebook Pages

## Mitigation Levels

### **Tier 1 - Minimal**

- Masks are recommended but not required.
- 3 feet or more between students when practical.
- Masks required on school buses and vans.
- Quarantines will be followed per IDPH Guidelines.

### **Tier 2 - Moderate**

- Masks recommended for all non-vaccinated students and staff if closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes; or (b) in a room with more than 50 persons.
- 3 feet or more between students when practical.
- Masks required on school buses and vans.
- Limit student movement out of the classroom and interaction with other classrooms.
- Quarantines will be followed per IDPH Guidelines.
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### **Tier 3 - Substantial or High**

- Masks required for all non-vaccinated or vaccinated students and staff.
- 6 feet between students when practical; 3 feet in all circumstances.
- Masks required on school buses and vans.
- Quarantines will be followed per IDPH Guidelines.
- Limit student movement out of the classroom and interaction with other classrooms.
- Transition to Remote Learning (classroom or school) as needed.

\*Mask requirements are subject to change at any time based on the school community's Covid-19 data. The Board will work closely with the LCDPH.

At ZLS, we will continue to provide a quality education while sharing the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the young hearts and minds of our students.

In planning for a year we know will be filled with many changes again, we know that the plans that have been set in place may change as we navigate through the year. We find comfort in Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." God's goodness in His gifts of forgiveness and salvation will not change. We rest in the assurance that our God is ever present in our lives. At ZLS we profess that our lives are lived in the hope of God's grace, mercy, and His salvation for all believers.

