



2020 Return to Learning FAQ Sheet

Dear Trinity Family,

This “Frequently Asked Question Sheet” is a companion document to the “Return to Learning Family and Parent Plan Trinity Lutheran School 2020.2021”. The FAQ Sheet is meant to highlight portions of the “Return to Learning Plan” and provide more background information on some topics. Although there may be some crossover of information parents should consult the “Return to Learning Plan” as we prepare to go back to school. The FAQ Sheet contains questions from our parent surveys and additional questions poised to us, in addition to other information. The FAQ Sheet may be periodically updated.

It would be a blessing to return to a normal start to a school year. The current pandemic situation does not allow for normal. We are called with the task of offering a Christian education. We desire to accomplish this despite the pandemic. Views on how to open a school vary. Parents have choices to make for how their children will be educated. We are ready to be of service to you. The choice you make for your family is the right one. Trinity supports the decision to join us virtually or in-person. Virtual Learning is the correct choice for some of our families. We are pleased to be able to offer this option. In-person learning is the correct choice for other families. Those uncertain of the decision to send their child back to school may find this [CDC document on the importance of reopening schools](#) helpful.

Trinity will host a Parent Virtual Return to Learning Town Hall Meeting on Monday, August 17th beginning at 7:00 pm. Originally this event was to include an in-person option. Due to a recent executive order limiting the size of public gatherings we are only able to host the Town Hall as a virtual event. Watch for information on how you will be able to participate, watch and ask questions. We will be asking our families to inform us of their choice to begin the school year - either in-person or virtually. Expect a form to be sent to you around August 19th.

May Our Savior continue to guide us and walk alongside us as we endeavor to Create Disciples Who Share Christ’s Story With Love!

JOYfully In Service,

Mr. Volkert



Moving Forward Together in Faith, Hope, and Love

Q: Will there still be chapel?

A: Yes. We are very excited to still have weekly chapel services. It is the safest to have the class presenting chapel while socially distanced, and we will live stream it privately to only the other classrooms and our registered virtual students. In the event we have some Trinity school families that are not able to join us through our in-person or virtual learning methods, we would like to still share chapel with them. When we arrive at Phase 5, groups of socially distanced students will be allowed to be present in the sanctuary during chapel. Sharing Christ's Story With Love to our students and families remains our goal!

Q: Will there still be prayer partners?

A: While we would like to still continue our prayer partners, this would mingle our cohorts. We will be reviewing this to either have prayer partners meet virtually when classes vary or partner kids within the same class. If your child has a prayer partner they prefer, please connect with their parents to help them connect virtually if both parents are willing and able to help them connect. God wants us to love him and share with others how wonderful he is. He wants us to share with him our thanks, our troubles, and our petitions. Please continue to partner with us to help show the power and comfort that can come from prayer.

Q: Will any aspects of religious education be affected?

A: At this time we may present all religious activities in different ways, such as chapel. But it is our goal to keep Christ as the center of everything we do throughout the day. If you have any suggestions on how we can better walk with you and your family, please reach out to your teacher, principal, or pastoral staff.

Q: Will there still be morning prayer, announcements, etc available to in-person and virtual students?

A: Yes. It is our plan to have most of the in-person activities that can be completed with proper social distancing to remain the same. We will also be looking into providing these and many other items to virtual students. If you ever feel that your child may be missing out on important aspects, please reach out to your teacher to see if we can accommodate any additional activities for your child.

Q: How do you plan to administer the church attendance requirement? Will remote church continue to be allowed?

A: Please follow the Trinity School Handbook church attendance information. Worshiping in-person and remotely as often as we can is a great way to live our faith, grow closer to God, and continuously feel the grace that he provides us. We encourage you to join us, or another church, wherever you are and as you are. When worshipping with us in-person or online, please text 797979 for service information. You will receive a link to a page that will allow you to communicate your attendance, see the order of worship, a link to the children's message, send prayer requests, and see the weekly e-News. If you attend elsewhere, please supply that information to the school office. We will provide more information as to the best practices to do this.

Q: Did Trinity consider distance learning platforms other than the Virtual Learning Option for Phase 4 and 5?

A: Yes. We thoroughly considered a "non-synchronous" option similar to Remote Learning that we hosted in the spring. Staffing Remote Learning while also offering 5 day a week in-person learning presented a major obstacle. It is physically impossible and not healthy for a faculty person to both teach the full day and oversee a Remote Learning classroom. Finding and hiring additional suitable teachers to run the Remote Learning is not feasible. The fluid COVID situation does not permit for final Return to Learning plans to be developed far in advance of the school year. This prevents parents from determining the option they would like for their child. Additionally, our various surveys never indicated any scenario in which about ½ of the students of a grade would be in-person and ½ would be remote. That removed any chance of one teacher being the "in-person teacher" and the other the "remote teacher". The surveys consistently revealed that most parents favored in-person. This demands two teachers per grade so that we can provide social distancing. In the end, the Virtual Learning option prevailed over other plans considered. Although not ideal, advantages such as being able to move between platforms and maintaining relationships outweighed other plans.

Q: Did Trinity consider a "hybrid" situation in which some students alternate between attending in-person two days a week and virtually three days a week?

A: Yes. The hybrid method provides for some benefits. After studying the model it became too complex of a schedule to implement. Significant resources and staffing would be necessary. The model could be more successful in a "bubble". However, many parents would not be able to secure childcare for the three virtual days of a hybrid schedule. Scheduling siblings on the same day or requiring parents of multiple children to follow different schedules is an issue. Surveys indicated that parents would take advantage of a hybrid model only if it lined up with their work schedule and would be in sync with the school of other siblings. The hybrid model would necessitate faculty members with children of their own to have identical schedules. In this model, it would be a challenge for Trinity to provide staff to instruct students who desired a full remote learning experience.

Q: Will students be able to move from in-person to virtual or virtual to in-person learning?

A: Yes. Students will be able to, and are expected to, transition from one learning method to another under certain scenarios. Each student is required to commit to a learning method. The student is expected to remain in that learning method unless a condition or situation requires a learning method change. In the event an in-person child is ill with COVID or impacted in other ways by COVID, they can join the virtual learning group until they are able to return to in-person. If a student started virtually, they are able to join the in-person class if they are well and intend to stay in-person. In either scenario, please notify your teacher to coordinate in advance. In order to minimize disruptions to the classrooms, students may be limited in the number of times they switch learning modes. Communication with the classroom teacher is key.

Q: I would like the option of starting virtually and being able to switch back to in person when things improve either at the quarter or semester. Will that be possible?

A: Yes. We understand that some families are not able to join us in-person, and will choose to join us virtually. We look forward to having your child back in-person. We should be able to have them join the class quickly once you are ready. Please note that it may be disruptive to switch learning modes multiple times. Students can move between the two learning environments as needed in response to COVID-19 testing, protocols, displaying symptoms, quarantined or otherwise impacted by COVID-19. In certain cases we may need to specify durations between switching learning modes. Communication with the classroom teacher is key.

Q: Can my otherwise “in-person” child join Virtual Learning for a day because they get up late, don’t want to go to school that day, we missed our ride, parent has a work conflict for the day, my child has a non-COVID related illness that will keep them home for the day, etc.?

A: No. In the examples given above and other similar situations the student would respond as if they were absent as they would during a normal school year. Virtual Learning will not necessarily be available for “regular old fashioned sick days”. Please keep in mind that Trinity is making plans for Virtual Learning in response to COVID-19. Having students join Virtual Learning for a day by the examples provided would disrupt our ability to carry out this learning model. Students can move between the two learning environments as needed in response to COVID-19 testing, protocols, displaying symptoms, quarantined or otherwise impacted by COVID-19. Communication with the teacher will be the key.

Q: How long is the transition from live-in person education to virtual learning (or vice versa)?

A: This is one of the biggest advantages of offering the in-person experience to those students joining us through our virtual learning method. In most cases, it will allow students who have symptoms to stay home and join the class virtually the next day! They will be able to hear the teacher, see the whiteboard, and participate in class. They may even be able to see their classmates at certain times throughout the day. If the child is too ill to learn that day, their work may be given to them when they return either physically, through Google Classroom, Seesaw or

the Red Awning Dropbox. Once the student is well according to the CDC and school guidelines, they may return back to in-person the next day. Communication with the classroom teacher is key.

Q: Are gym, library, and technology specials still being offered to elementary students? These are very important!!

A: Yes, we agree! We are planning on still having all specials. But in order to do this the safest way, we will be making some changes. The "Return to Learning Plan" contains details for the various specials.

Q: There are so many phrases and titles to describe online learning. There is remote learning, virtual learning, distance learning, e-learning, and more. Can you define Trinity's terms for online learning?

A: Certainly! At Trinity, we are using two titles for our online learning. Please note, our definitions don't follow any industry standard. These are the titles we selected and defined here at Trinity for ease of communication.

"Remote Learning" - this is similar to what we hosted in the spring. Any new version of "Remote Learning" will be enhanced from the spring. We developed Remote Learning during one weekend in March and it evolved over the course of the 4th quarter. Our teachers responded and did an incredible job with our first dive into Remote Learning. The school building closed, but education continued. We learned a lot! That experience combined with input from parents and others informs any future rollout of Remote Learning. A team of Trinity's teachers met over the summer to review and plan. We will continue to use Google Classroom for the upper grades and Seesaw for the lower grades. An example of one planned change is to have teachers all use the platforms in uniform ways. This will allow a parent with students in multiple grades to have the same experience when they access the content making it easier at home. We will have similar approaches in the school how teachers create original instructional video content in addition to other resources. Elements of live interaction would be part of future Remote Learning. Remote Learning would be used if the state went back to Phase 3.

"Virtual Learning" - This is Trinity's term for students joining their classmates virtually via the video conferencing tool Google Meet. Appendix B of the "Return to Learning Plan" is our initial description of Virtual Learning. Answers to questions in this FAQ Sheet provide more information. Included are descriptions of why we feel this model provides more advantages than other methods to deliver online learning. We do anticipate that we will need to make adjustments and respond to issues that develop. The pandemic situation has not allowed the luxury of having full tests for the plan. We go forward with talented people at Trinity to guide and respond.

Flexibility - The virus status will continue to be fluid and perhaps we can expect the unexpected. We may need to pivot our plans based on current situations. There may be circumstances in which a blend of the two online methods is used. We may respond to a situation by switching from one method to another. The number of students in a particular class that need to be online may cause a change. We prefer to remain able to deliver instruction than be tied to one method or another.

Q: It might be difficult for a child to sit in front of a screen for the school day to participate in Virtual Learning.

A: Unfortunately this is a drawback of any virtual/online learning program. Parents will need to choose the best learning method for their child, and we want to work with them to help create the best possible experience for those that are not able to join us in-person. Many parts of the learning can be done offscreen while the teacher is speaking. At home students will receive breaks during the day. This may be when students are working independently or are in transition. This mimics the ebb and flow of a “normal” school day. Just like in “normal” situations, at home students may take shorter or longer amounts of time to complete work than other classmates. The teacher, or a “buddy”, may audibly explain to just the Virtual Learning students what is coming up next or how long a break may be. Some student work can be printed and completed on paper, and then turned in through Google Classroom or physically to the Red Awning Dropbox. The teacher will explain. There will likely be times during the day that the child will be doing busy work off screen. Communication with the classroom teacher will be the key.

Q: What happens if the internet goes out? How will virtual students get their lessons if it's just live streamed and the internet or power goes out?

A: We ask that families of virtual learning students assess their internet connection prior to school. You may want to consider switching to another provider, upgrade your hardware or bandwidth, or use a wired connection in place of wifi. Some families may want to look into a hotspot from your cellular provider as a primary or backup internet connection. In the event you lose internet service, please follow-up with your teacher for options to receive and complete school work. Some items will be able to be completed through Google Classroom and submitted once connectivity returns. Other items may need to be picked up and dropped off using the Red Awning Dropbox. In the end, there is the chance that there will be connectivity issues. We are blessed at Trinity to have people (like Mr. Fraeyman and others) who have great knowledge in these areas and can be a valuable resource as we respond to these issues.

Q: One of the benefits to last year's remote learning is kids could work at their pace and there was more flexibility in when during the day to complete work and take breaks. This also allowed for us to answer questions if needed or allowed the student to rewatch a lesson.

A: In order to provide in-person and virtual learning simultaneously, we have decided it is best to live stream the classroom so the virtual students have the same opportunity to receive the same experience as the in-person. It is not physically possible for our staff to complete both in-person, and then format it to the offline version outside of the normal school day. It is our hope that students will be on-time and present for the virtual learning method in the same way as the in-person. There may be times that a virtual student (or parent) may need to reach out to the teacher or school office to help. At times the student will be able to virtually raise their hand during class. Teachers or other staff/aids will also be available for scheduled phone calls or video meetings to assist children with lessons.

Q: Will classroom content/instruction be recorded for us to review later if something isn't understood?

A: For younger grades we will plan to offer recorded sections of the school day that will be delivered to virtual students. This may be throughout the day, at the end of the day, or the following day depending on the content duration, the time to compile, and other factors. We are aware that the younger the child, the more difficult it may be for them to keep their attention, so the recordings are best. They may also be in childcare and unable to attend live during the day. For the mid to upper grades, we do not have plans to record and post the content. It also will take considerable effort to record, edit, and share for each class that is added. We also would like to respect the privacy of our students, staff, and our facility as much as we can.

Q: Is there any possibility of live streaming just core subjects like math, reading, writing, and religion and then recording lessons in other areas for virtual kids to do on their own time table so they can take breaks from screens as needed?

A: Unfortunately streaming parts and recording parts of a class will create room for error and additional work for the staff and video editors that we may not be able to keep up with at this time. We do want to work with individual families on specific issues like this that may occur. Communication with the classroom teacher will help with this. In addition, the classroom will follow an expected schedule just like in "normal" school. This knowledge may be helpful as families at home adjust to joining classes remotely.

Q: Have you considered that watching their school in session without them might be difficult emotionally?

A: Yes, we do plan to have several ways to help our virtual students interact with our in-person students to help them feel included. There may be opportunities for them to talk to their friends in the classroom. During lunch they could have the iPad near a friend so they can have "lunch with a buddy". Virtual students will be able to join us for a live streamed chapel. They will be able to see the front of the room so the teacher and the board are visible. The teacher may move the iPad around the room or even the campus in certain scenarios so the student can still roam with the class. They could have special time with a designated classmate, prayer partner, or one-on-one time with their teacher. During class, they may even have opportunities for direct interaction to ask questions by virtually raising their hand. We can also help facilitate other ways for them to connect with classmates as well as support their spiritual, social, and emotional well-being. Please feel free to contact the School or Church office to speak with the Principal or someone from the Pastoral staff. We are blessed to specifically have Pastor Chad on staff to help with this and other emotional needs that may arise.

Q: If the class is muted and the virtual child has a question how will he communicate?

A: We do not plan to do wholesale muting of the class or interruption of the video unless needed to by the teacher which should only be temporary. There may also be times in which the app is muted or the video interrupted as the students are working independently and the teacher works with individuals. Students should be able to get the attention of the teacher as needed.

There may be certain times that a teacher may ask for questions or ask to hold questions for a certain time. In the event a student has a question that was not able to be taken, they can follow-up with the teacher in an email, one-on-one time, or at the next chance the teacher asks for questions. Students may want to write down their questions if they are not able to be immediately called on. We also may have an in-person “student of the day” assist the teacher if they notice a virtual student has a question.

Q: Are there any special preparations we should make at home if we are getting ready for Virtual Learning?

A: Good question! Parents should help their student establish a recognized place for learning in their home. It should be comfortable, free from distractions and appropriate for learning. We encourage you to keep pets and other siblings away from the device. Students should prepare for a day of at home learning in a similar fashion to a “normal” day of school. They are advised to wake up, eat a good breakfast, brush their teeth and complete ordinary hygiene practices. At home students are not required to observe the specifics of the school dress code. However, they should dress appropriately for learning and pajamas are not allowed. School supplies should be at the ready. Teachers and parents should communicate with each other prior to the at home experience so that students have the proper textbooks and other materials needed for learning.

Q: Will there be feedback on corrected papers?

A: Feedback is important. Private video conferencing as scheduled or as needed will be used so that teachers can catch up on individual student progress and kids can ask questions. Parents are invited to contact the teacher if they have questions in this area. In a “normal” school year and day teachers are able to continually observe student progress and provide feedback in a multitude of ways. This can be a smile, a thumbs up, or a quick redirection if a student is making errors. Our pandemic world creates challenges that we need to overcome. Communication is helpful!

Q: Will there be any opportunities for 1-on-1 with students and their new teachers to build that personal relationship if they are learning in the virtual environment?

A: Yes. Your teacher will make arrangements to be in contact when there is a need or there are questions.. They may be able to do a video or phone call. Some teachers may have other creative ways to interact with your child as the year goes on. We will be having a “Tell the Teacher More Day” on August 27 so parents can spend time telling the teacher all the wonderful (and maybe some not so wonderful) things about your child. Please watch out for a questionnaire from your teacher that you can fill out in advance. This time will be exclusively for you to talk about your child to your teacher in advance.

Q: I have heard much about “cohorting” in schools. What is that and is Trinity cohorting students?

A: Yes. Trinity will implement the idea of cohorting across the school. Here is a definition from Michigan Association of Local Public Health: While keeping students 6 feet from one another is

one of the preferred mitigation strategies, it may be difficult to achieve in the school setting. If this is the case, schools can cohort students and staff. Another important tool to help contain the spread of COVID-19 in schools is cohorting students and staff. Cohorts are important because it limits how many students and teachers will be exposed to COVID-19 should someone at school be contagious. Cohorts may be by classroom and/or groups within the classroom.

Q: Does Trinity have to follow the school reopen rules from the State of Michigan?

A: Portions of the guidelines provided by the State of Michigan to reopen our schools are mandated. This includes the various regulations on face masks. The state has authority over public and private institutions and can close schools who do not abide by these requirements.

Q: Can my child wear a face mask or face shield to school even if it is not required of them?

A: This is an excellent question. Yes! Trinity supports the decision of any family or student in grades preschool through 5 grade to wear a face mask even though not required in Phase 4. Students in preschool through 5th grade have the option of wearing a face shield while in the classroom. Note, face shields are not a substitute for face masks for these students when they are outside of their classroom in common areas of the building. Once we are in Phase 5, any student in the building is encouraged, but not required, to wear a face mask or face shield.

Q: How will teachers handle constant hand washing and social distancing in classrooms?

A: Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in every classroom in grade Young 5's through 8th grade. A number of our classrooms are equipped with sinks. We are exploring methods to install portable hand washing units in a few early childhood classrooms that do not have sinks. Teachers will build handwashing times into their class schedule. There will be frequent reminders, instructions and enforcement of social distancing. Since we want to safely have school there will be focus on these topics.

Q: Does the school have access to sanitizing wipes if parents cannot find them since they are scarcely available?

A: We will not be depending on sanitizing wipes. We have a number of battery operated misters as well as several spray bottles in each classroom that contain a food safe disinfectant. The disinfectant will be used between classes. Every classroom will be disinfected each evening. The custodial team will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of public areas during the school day. You are invited to donate Clorox wipes or similar products to Trinity for use during cleaning and disinfection.

Q: If my child does come back in person, can we opt out of choir and other specials that seem higher risk for potential spread of COVID?

A: Yes. Note: choir will have a focus on music theory and appreciation rather than singing. More details about specials are included in The Return to Learning Plan.

Q: The junior high has tables will children still share tables?

A: Student seating in all classrooms will be moved as far apart as possible. Students will be assigned to seats in the classrooms using our 6 foot tables to provide social distancing. Additional classroom furniture may be used as needed to accommodate keeping students as far apart as possible. The tables will be disinfected between uses.

Q: Will parents be able to walk their child to their classroom?

A: Unfortunately and sadly, no. Parents can walk their child to their entrance to wish them a good day, but they cannot enter the school building. Marks on the ground will provide socially distanced paths to the various school entrances. It is important to minimize the number of visitors to the building. Parents will only be able to visit the school office. It is important for our parents to practice social distancing as well. This is certainly not an ideal situation for our many families who know each other so well.

Q: Does this include Early Childhood students?

A: Parents of early childhood students (both Early Learning Center and Preschool) may walk their child to their health screening station. Depending on your child's classroom, this will either be the bottom of the staircase inside Door 6 (ELC Entrance) or the Gym Lobby (Door 2). Again, this is a very unfortunate circumstance.

Q: Will there be busing if Utica Community Schools does not offer in-person learning?

A: There will not be busing in that case. Trinity does not have the resources to provide that, and we don't own any buses.

Q: Will students be sharing supplies?

A: Students will have their own personal supplies. Parents can access the school supply list on Trinity's website. We are not planning to share school supplies in most cases. Some supplies that are easy to clean and not easy for each child to have their own may be shared. Exceptions may be made for activities outdoors such as outdoor physical education classes where supplies are limited. If it is impossible to avoid sharing supplies, such supplies must be cleaned after every use. Mrs. Haskins will buy additional art supplies in bulk to provide individually to students. A nominal art fee will be charged to cover the cost. Mrs. Haskins will happily accept donations of materials to the art program. You are welcome to contact her to see if she is in need of anything.

Q: What will be the protocols for safe use of the gym locker room?

A: We will not use the locker room during Phase 4 and 5 for PE. Students in the upper grades will not be changing clothes for PE. Please note the explanation of PE found in the Return to Learning Plan. You will see that this year, students will need sneakers at school for going outside instead of to the gym. Students will not need to change into sneakers for PE if they wear sneakers to school on the day of their PE class.

Q: Would it be easier to have the teachers move between classrooms rather than the students so that desks are not shared?

A: For the most part students will remain in their classroom. Some “specials” teachers will bring their instruction to the students’ classrooms. Some “specials” will be taught in the “normal” room and others will be moved to alternate sites with instructional areas disinfected between uses. Specific details are listed in the “Return to Learning Plan”. Junior high students will move between their classrooms. We studied a plan for junior high students to remain in one room all day with the teachers changing classrooms. This arrangement led to multiple issues that would adversely impact student progress. The junior high will follow a procedure that calls for disinfecting the room whenever the students switch classes. In addition, the students in junior high are masked.

Q: Will my child’s classroom look different?

A: Your child will recognize their classroom but notice a difference. We will be spreading out desks and tables in classrooms as much as possible. In order to maximize floor space, we’ve asked teachers to remove non-essential furniture and other items. We also plan to have desks and tables be arranged so that all students face the front of the room. The teachers’ desks may be six feet or more from students. Papers may only be turned in using trays, and most handling of items like papers, handouts, books, etc will be limited or eliminated in most cases. Some items such as toys, pillows, bean bags, reading chairs, etc may also be removed or replaced with items that are easy to clean between use. These are some of the many steps we are taking to keep our students and teachers safe.

Q: What will be the plan for toys?

A: Toys that are made of soft plush materials will not be used in the classrooms. (Ex. stuffed animals, dress up clothes, cloth furniture, etc.) Toys that are used will be toys that can easily be disinfected each day. Small groups of children will play with a group of certain toys. Then those toys will go into the “To be cleaned” area. Toys will be divided up so that multiple groups of children will be able to experience the same type of toys. Children may be rotated through centers to aid in social distancing.

Q: What type of chemicals/cleaning procedure will be used to clean the school daily after the bell rings? Which areas of the school will be cleaned daily?

A: Classroom desks will be disinfected with a CDC approved food safe dilution of bleach water solution.. Other common areas and touch points will be disinfected with CDC approved disinfecting agents. An increased cleaning schedule will be followed for the common/public areas of the building. This includes bathrooms, hallways, and staircases. Each classroom will be disinfected every evening with special emphasis on commonly touched surfaces such as light switches and countertops.

Q: Will teachers be using harsh chemicals to clean the classrooms during school hours or will they only be used before or after school hours?

A: All classroom and building cleaning will continue as normal. However, many of these routine cleanings will occur more often. This is especially true in common areas such as bathrooms, drinking fountains (drinking fountains have been disabled but bottle fill stations are available), and doors. All cleaning agents are used in accordance with the manufacturer's usage directions. All disinfecting chemicals are CDC approved. These consist of a diluted bleach/water solution (CloroxPro Germicidal Bleach), as well as a disinfecting agent (Betco Quat-Stat 5 Disinfectant) . Cleaning and disinfecting will occur each evening, and at certain times during the day. This may include but not limited to sinks, microwaves, handles, doorknobs, light switches, and commonly used areas and touch points. For the upper grades, all desks and chairs will be sprayed/wiped down before and/or after students move classrooms with their cohorts.

Q: Will there be a protocol for safe use of books from classroom libraries and the school library?

A: Yes. Teachers will provide a "dropbox" area in their classroom for students to return books that have been borrowed so that the books can sit untouched for a period of time. Mrs. Malinowski is acquiring book bins to collect library books from classrooms. The books will also remain "quarantined" for a period of time.

Q: I am also concerned with you teaming up with the health department. Are you going to call the health Dept every time a child is sick or will the parent be contacted?

A: Trinity will not contact the health department and divulge the identity of a student in our building without first receiving direct permission from a parent.

Q: Will there be any dedicated time teachers may spend to help explain the current state of health and planning and if things may change? For example, kids were in school one day and gone the next. It has been challenging and I think scary for some kids to process. I would love to have some dedicated time for kids to ask questions and get information to help prepare if things could change (for example start school in class but rise in cases so may need to switch to virtual). We are having these discussions at home but I think it would help as a group!

A: This is a great question. The faculty will discuss the best practice to meet this need for our students. Parents should prepare their child as they see fit, but teachers will also likely be involved in some explanation. However, teachers will not always be aware of the reason a child is absent, and they generally will also not be sharing reasons for a child's absence. Pastor Chad is also an additional resource for parents, students, and staff to discuss these concerns. Thank you for raising this question.

Q: Will there be hot lunch options still, and if so, will those be served differently (packaged rather than open on a tray)?

A: We are working with Chef Rick and his team. They are reviewing options and will be presenting them once they confirm what is available. More information will be shared once it is

known. If we are able to have a hot/cold lunch option, meals will likely be pre-packaged from the caterers' off site restaurant rated kitchen and delivered to the classrooms.

Q: Will bagel day still be an option?

A: Unfortunately there will be no bagel days this year.

Q: What is the likelihood of the DC trip happening in May? Do you have a target date to let us know if you're pulling the plug on it?

A: At this time, the DC trip is still tentatively scheduled for May. We are in communication with the vendors. We will share more information as it is available. At this time we will continue to plan, but are aware that there is a possibility that this trip may be rescheduled or canceled. Mr. Lucas and Mrs. Myers will keep families informed.

Q: What is the status of the dress code if in-person learning proceeds as normal.

A: The dress code will remain in effect as stated in the student handbook for in-person learning. Students that are virtual are expected to wear appropriate clothing, and we ask that you prepare them for a day of learning by changing out of pajamas. Please contact the school office if you have issues with acquiring school uniform type of clothes. You would have the option of supplying your child's sizes to the school office, and we may be able to provide clothing from our Warrior Wear Recycle Shop.

Q: Can the trinity dress code be waived this year?

A: It is preferred to maintain the dress code. The faculty and staff will have additional duties this year. Determining which students have appropriate or inappropriate clothing would be problematic.

Q: Who makes up the Reopen Task Force and what qualifications were considered when choosing the individuals on the Reopen Task Force?

A: The Task Force has invested countless hours throughout the past few months in preparation for an unusual school year. Their numerous lengthy discussions occurred in person and by video conference. They read, studied and sought the opinions and expertise of others. Their work is not complete. They will review and advise throughout the school year until prayerfully the pandemic is put behind us. The Task Force is made up of Trinity community stakeholders. They are people who support the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Several members are parents of students at Trinity. Staff people with expertise in the areas of HR, finances, budget, building operations and sanitation serve on the Task Force. The Task Force includes an area public school administrator. Members of lay and professional leadership are on the committee. We were blessed to have several educators with many years of experience on the Task Force. The members are Cyndi Carpenter, Sheri Daniell, Brenda Havers, Sue Lockhart, John Lucas, Jeff Pioch, DeAnn Schluessler, Scott Touchette, and Bruce Volkert

Q: How many of the members of the Reopen Task Force have extensive and advanced training and expertise in the fields of medicine, infectious disease, virology, and child

psychology. We would expect a doctor, PhD or law degree would constitute an expert in these disciplines rather than teachers and nurses.

A: The Task Force did seek and receive much information from people who are experts in the various fields. We also were provided with studies and summaries from those with experience in a variety of disciplines including the operation of schools. The State of Michigan provided guidelines to both public and private schools. Physicians, epidemiologists, child psychologists, experts in mental health, legal affairs, members of police and fire departments, representatives from public agencies, education personnel and others served on the council that formed the guidance. The Task Force studied a variety of guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We were able to study and apply recommendations from the Michigan Association for Local Public Health. We received invaluable input and direction from our own Michigan Lutheran School Superintendent. The Michigan Association of Non-public Schools continues to be a source of information on a wide range of topics. Our Task Force also studied what we observed other schools doing in the process. All of this information is available to the members of the Task Force to consider as we best apply it to our specific ministry at Trinity Lutheran School.

Q: What scientific data is being or has been considered when making decisions on policy by the Reopen Task Force? For example, studies that prove the effectiveness of non-medical grade, cloth masks in stopping the spread of infectious diseases, studies that show the effectiveness of social distancing, studies that show the effectiveness of requiring grades 6-12 to wear masks at all times is more effective than kids K-5, etc.

A: Many studies and research provide data to impact the decisions as we move forward with our Return to Learning Plan. The data can be in conflict with each other as we face this novel coronavirus crisis. The Task Force receives findings and opinions to determine what will be best practice at Trinity. The reopen plan provided by the State of Michigan impacts some of our plan development. We are required to be in compliance with these guidelines if we are to lawfully open our school. Portions of our reopen plan were mandated to all schools in Michigan, including Trinity. This includes the requirements on face masks and socially distancing. State laws do provide some authority of the state government over private schools. This includes areas of sanitation and public health. The state would have the authority to close our school if we do not abide by laws that pertain to us even as a private educational institution.

Q: Are we able to know the survey results of family's preferences for the learning options?

A: The most recent survey illustrates 68.9% of students plan to return to in-person learning. 18.7% are leaning towards the in-person learning model. 2.6% of students are planning on being in our Virtual Learning environments with another 9.8% leaning in that direction. The amount of information available and the time left to commit to a learning option impacts parents' decisions. It is hopeful that between the Return to Learning Plan, this FAQ Sheet and our August 17th Town Hall Meeting that parents will have sufficient information to make a decision for their family.

Q: What will virtual learning look like if MI is moved back to phase 3 anytime during the school year? Will it be the same as Trinity's current virtual learning plan?

A: Yes. In the unfortunate event that our area is moved to Phase 3, we will revert to a Remote Learning format. We have been working to enhance our Remote format, and we will likely introduce some aspects of virtual learning as well where we find it beneficial to maximize learning. Some more information is provided in one of the early questions on this FAQ Sheet that provided a definition for Remote Learning.

Q: Why is phase 5 of the opening plan so strict? Still streaming chapel, no traveling to specials, no assemblies etc According to MI safe start plan, phase 5 can be like "normal" school but with some precautions.

A: The Return to Learning Plan in Phase 5 does have a lot of similarity to Phase 4. The most notable difference is the removal of the mask requirements. Although, individuals may still wear a face mask or face shield if they desire. Students will be able to attend chapel in person in Phase 5 following a rotating schedule. There are a few other changes but there are a number of Phase 4 protocols that remain in place for Phase 5. Phase 5 is defined as having far fewer positive cases and the number of active cases is less common. Social distancing remains an important part of being able to keep students safe and the school operational. This is the plan for now. Perhaps there will be a reevaluation if we were blessed to move forward in the phases. The virus has been a fluid situation since we shut down in March. An accurate prediction of the coming weeks and months is difficult. There may be some loosening of the requirements, but there will be the need to keep the virus at bay. The most important aspect is maintaining our students' health and safety. We do not want a situation to jeopardize our ability to have school.

Q: Will the water bottle refill stations be open?

A: Yes. However we have turned off the drinking portion until further notice. Students will be able to bring water bottles to school to fill at the refill station.

Q: Will schools still collect tuition this year?

A: Yes. While this school year may look different, our schools will continue to provide a rigorous academic experience while supporting the moral and spiritual development of each student. Our Lutheran school depends upon tuition revenue to pay our employees who do this work and support other school-related expenses.

Q: Will the tuition remain the same for the families that choose virtual learning?

A: Tuition for Virtual Learning will be the same as for in-person learning. One of the advantages of our Virtual Learning plan is the ability of students to move between the two platforms. Potentially calculating numerous tuition variances is not possible.

Q: Will there be a tuition discount if we move to Phase 3 and enter Remote Learning?

A: Yes. Trinity families will receive a discount of 10% for any month in which Trinity was in Remote Learning for at least 50% of the month. If this were to occur, the discount may be calculated near the end of the school year. It is interesting to note that there is not much of a

drop in expenditures when Trinity is in Remote Learning. There is no savings. Trinity's teachers invested more hours in their calling during Remote School over "regular" school. We don't produce items or widgets at Trinity. School is a people based endeavor. 85% - 90% of Trinity's costs are in our wonderful personnel. This seems perhaps hard to believe, but it is a common percentage of the budget for schools. Our building is paid for. Trinity Lutheran Church covers a significant portion of our school budget. The cost of materials and supplies is far less than the invaluable staff members who make Trinity a ministry. We are partners with you to supply a Christian education to the great students of Trinity. Without them and tuition dollars to support their learning, our ministry does not move forward.

Q: What happens if I lose my job or for some other reason can't afford the cost of tuition and seek financial assistance?

A: Trinity does not want money to be an obstacle for a child to receive a Christian education. Generous members of our Trinity community contribute willingly of their own directly to our scholarship program. Financial assistance may be available for you if an issue arises in your family. Please contact the school office so that we can provide you with information. The investment of an education based on Jesus Christ is the finest investment one can make in the life of a child.

Q: Will Latchkey be provided as normal, with the 6:30am opening?

A: Latchkey hours will remain the same. Latchkey protocols fall under state licensing guidelines. More information about our Latchkey practices will be coming.

Q: Will Trinity offer sports?

A: This has yet to be determined. Our state and league athletic officials are meeting soon.

Q: Will there be any opportunity at all for parents to volunteer in school classrooms?

A: Sadly, not in Phase 4. This will be evaluated for Phase 5. This is really too bad. We believe so strongly in the value to both the school and the family when parents are able to volunteer. There are many aspects that simply stink about this whole pandemic crisis and this is one of the big ones. We hope to see you back when the virus issue is gone.

Q: As parents what can we do to help Trinity? How can we help the teachers?

A: What a wonderful question! Let's start a list...

- You can contact Trinity if you have supplies that may be needed that you can contribute. You may get in contact with your teacher to see what individual needs that may have.
- You can contact Mr. Volkert specifically to offer yourself for service. A few people have already done this. Mr. Volkert can talk to you and see areas in which your gift mix could be used to help our school ministry.
- You may continue to be an ambassador for Trinity Lutheran School! We enjoy cheerleaders! Don't be shy to give your testimonial of the importance of a Christian education in the life of your family.

- You may contact Dina Ranieri, our PTL chairperson, to see if you can be of assistance. This will be a very strange year for our PTL.
- Communication is so important during a normal year and even more crucial for 2020-2021. Continue to practice 'loving communication'. There will be anxiousness and perhaps long hours for you, our students and the teachers. Have that in mind when initiating conversations. Our families provided such uplifting messages to teachers last spring. Some of those notes came at just the right time for weary teachers. Go ahead and lift each other up! We share membership in the family of God which makes this all the more meaningful.
- Trinity is a ministry that depends on the generosity of those in our community. Perhaps your family finances have not been impacted negatively by the pandemic. Others have. Our scholarship fund is always ready to receive donations. Maybe a stimulus check will come to you that you can prayerfully consider gifting to the scholarship fund. Kids get to learn about Jesus and mature in their faith because people give to that fund.
- Remain flexible and adaptable as we respond to this ever changing situation.
- And most importantly, pray! Trinity exists because of Jesus Christ. An education is offered at Trinity so that Jesus can be the center of a child's life. Keep Christ in the forefront of your child's life. Have them join you in prayer time. Pray for our students, our teachers, our families and our school. Join your child in casting anxieties on Him. He does care for us.