



**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
S C H O O L

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When will the fall information folders be ready?**

Beginning August 20, families will be invited to come pick up their folder for the coming school year.

### **Will there be Meet the Teacher night?**

Yes! On August 27, students will be invited alphabetically to attend with their family. This event will be outside. There will be tables distanced by grade level. Teachers will be in shields so students can meet their teacher face to face. We will collect items. Grade level teachers will reach out to families prior to August 27 to tell families what each child should bring. This event will be optional. You will receive a specific email regarding this, and a note from your child's teacher prior to the event.

### **What are the school hours?**

8:10am-2:40pm.

Drop off begins at 7:45am. Pick up begins at 2:40pm.

Students in K, 5, and 6 enter in door 12.

Students in 1, 2, 3, 4 enter in door 10.

Students in PreK enter in door 1.

There will be a map in the fall packet.

### **Will there be bussing?**

We will route the Good Shepherd bus that the school owns. We will be able to use the bus for field trips if offered. Our local bus company will not be able to provide us bussing at this point. They are down 10 bus drivers. We will continue to be in communication with them to see if drivers are hired and if they are able to offer us additional routes. We typically use two Park Adam buses for transportation.

*\*We will be sending communication separately about the bus to help us identify families that need bussing most in these circumstances, knowing we are only able to bus at half capacity for safety purposes.*

### **Where do students go upon arrival?**

Students enter the building and head to their classroom. Teachers will help them maintain distance from other cohorts, and they will not be in a shared hallway space more than 15 minutes.

### **Will temperatures be taken?**

We will take temperatures in the classroom. We will let students right into the building once they arrive. We do not want lines of several children outside the building, which will create large group settings of multiple cohorts. Once students are in the building, they will head to their classroom. Their teacher will take their temp during morning work time, and before they have been at school for 15 minutes. If there is a fever, the office will take an additional temp and contact home to seek further care.

### **What will specialists be like?**

Specialist teachers will go to the classroom to teach, instead of the students traveling to the specialist class. There will be times students rotate to specialists on occasion if ample cleaning time is available. **Music** will still happen. Students will learn music appreciation, rhythm, movement, and more. **Band** will still be offered for grades 4-6. Students will be in sectionals and be able to gather distanced for instruction. Mrs. Stearns will provide specific music/band details. **Physical Education** will have supplies used on a rotational schedule, students won't begin with contact sports, and all PE classes will be outside if weather permits. Mrs. Cornish will share PE plans with families. **Spanish** will happen in the classroom, and on occasion will be outdoors. Miss Hudinsky will share Spanish plans with families. **Computer** class will be taught by Mrs. Whitehouse, and will happen in the classroom and occasionally in the computer room with proper cleaning and distancing. **STEM** and **Art** will be taught by the homeroom teacher. Mrs. Johnson is the STEM coordinator and has prepared several units to help support the teachers. The Art curriculum can be taught in-person and online, which will allow feasibility for remote and in-person learners. **Library** will be available for use, but students will check out books on a list and the teacher will gather the books for the kids. Preschool students will have specialist classes as well.

**Will we have buddies?**

Yes, students will have buddies! We will work on finding creative ways to work with our buddies to instill relationships outside of the main cohort. They won't meet in person, but we have creative ways to collaborate. K and 6 are buddies. 1 and 5 are buddies. 2 and 4 are buddies. Preschool and 3 are buddies.

**Can we go on field trips?**

If field trips are offered, we will be able to utilize the GS bus safely to attend field trips. Cohorts will have to go to the field trip instead of an entire grade level. Parent permission will be sought for any field trip.

**Will there be shared supplies?**

Children will have their own supplies to use. When there are shared items, items will be sanitized between uses. Teachers will rotate shared materials to allow for the use of manipulatives for certain projects and for time to clean.

**Will students use paper?**

Yes. We will use paper for students in the classroom for learning. We will not only use electronics for instruction.

**How will parents know what is happening at school?**

Besides just email communication and classroom websites, we are in the process of finding a school wide communication app to confidentially share information with parents about their child during the day. The app we are seeking will also allow for communication for pick up and drop-off scenarios and more. Stay tuned for more details on this.

**Can students work in groups?**

Yes, students will be allowed to work in groups with their cohort. They will also have space within their classroom to allow for independent work.

**How often will there be mask breaks?**

When students are outside they will get breaks. When they eat snack and lunch they will get breaks. When they are in their seat distanced,

and need a short break, the teacher will allow for this using discretion and noting the age of the student. When students are very close to their classmates working, they will need to be masked, and always in transition scenarios.

### **Will there be masks for my child?**

We will provide a mask if a child does not have one. We would encourage a child to have a back-up mask in their bag. Students can wear masks with designs, please nothing political or wordy. We will always have extra masks should a child need one. Shields may be used within the classroom cohort for students with medical exemptions. In transition areas all students need to use masks. \*We are in the process of deciding which way we will have students store masks when they are not in use. Your child's teacher will communicate this prior to Meet the Teacher night.

### **Will there be lunch?**

Yes, we are offering bag lunches. Lunch will be delivered to the classroom for students to eat in their classroom and/or outdoors on specific days. We will rotate some grades into the large shared spaces to eat once we get into the year. Preschool students will eat in the gym. A menu will be included in the fall folder on August 20. We are not increasing lunch pricing. Details about the menu items will be provided.

### **Will my child ever be able to talk to kids in other cohorts?**

Yes, they will see their peers. They will not be allowed to be together indoors for extending periods, but they will see each other in passing. Outdoors, teachers can bring out two cohorts and have them distanced. In phase one, we will not mix cohorts for playing or academic collaboration. Some grades will be able to offer partner work with their electronics from students in different classes.

### **What will recess look like?**

Students will get main recess everyday, plus an additional recess if the teachers wish to bring their class out. The playground will be split into sections for play and we hope to put new activities out for kids to have different items to utilize. Cohorts will have their own set of

playground equipment. We will always wash hands before and after playing on the playground. When students are outside they will wear a colored wrist band (provided by the school) to help identify which cohort each child is in.

### **How big are the cohorts?**

Class size is capped at 25 students. We have cohorts ranging from 15-25 students per cohort. We will maximize space within each classroom so that each child will have a space to sit away from other students. We will not require the classroom cohort to maintain distance the entire day. They will be in cohorts knowing that students naturally engage with one another.

### **When will we social distance?**

In hallways, when with another cohort if it presents itself, and any time in shared space. We will be limiting the number of students in the bathrooms.

### **What have you done about ventilation?**

We have HVAC systems in our nursing area, offices, multi-purpose room, and Social Hall, as well as a large vent at the intersection of the 4 wings. We are upgrading to Merv 13 filters. We are adding an air purification system to each classroom. We will utilize the windows that we are fortunate to have in each classroom.

### **What about Covid-19?**

While we are hopeful that we will not need to shift to school-wide distance learning, we are committed to making prudent decisions based on the guidance provided by the CDC, the MDH and the governor's office, the archdiocesan schools office, and what we see working in local schools.

We strongly ask families to do the **Daily Health Check** prior to sending children to school. You will need to be in communication with the school about every absence. Health data will be kept confidential, yet we will have to share when Covid-19 positive cases or exposures are within the direct community/cohort. We will not use student names or family names when sharing data unless it is necessary and

requested by the MDH. We will always be in communication with the family in each scenario that arises.

**Some scenarios:**

**Student tests positive for Covid-19:** The student must be distanced. The student's entire cohort must be distanced. The teacher of that cohort must be distanced. Any siblings of that student who are students at Good Shepherd must be distanced. Students and teachers from other cohorts can continue to come to school.

**Student is exposed to somebody outside our community who tests positive (like a parent):** The student must be distanced. The other students in that student's cohort can continue to come to school. The teacher of that cohort can continue to come to school.

**Students' siblings:** Siblings of students that are exposed can continue to attend school. Siblings of a positive Covid-19 family member or direct cohort member must be distanced.

**Classroom teacher tests positive:** The teacher must be distanced. The teacher's entire cohort must be distanced. Siblings of a student in that teacher's cohort can continue to come to school.

**If a teacher is exposed to somebody outside our community who tests positive (like a spouse):** The teacher needs to be distanced. The teacher's cohort can continue to come to school (we would hire a sub or have the teacher teach from home and have an aide in person, etc).

**Specialist teacher tests positive:** The teacher must be distanced. The cohorts that the teacher was in contact with for more than 15 minutes under 6 feet must be distanced.

**When would the whole school need to be distanced?**

There are so many variables at play, but if the number of cases is high and unsafe, we will pivot to distance learning for two weeks to allow for healing and deep cleaning. Students will get remote learning.

*Anytime a student needs to be distanced, they will receive remote learning materials.*

### **What will distance learning look like?**

All students will be getting a device to use at school, and if needed they will be able to bring the device home for remote learning. Each grade level teacher will communicate to their students/parents about what online learning will look like in their grade.

*We have two types of distance learning.*

The first type is when we have some students in-person and some students remote. We refer to this as our hybrid distance learning. In this model, students will be assigned a homeroom teacher. They will receive learning materials from their homeroom teacher, in addition to having assistance from Mrs. Henningsgaard and the other grade-level teacher(s). There will be some live lessons and mostly recorded lessons, as well as set times to exchange materials with teachers and meet virtually. Students will get graded for remote learning; it will not be pass or fail. Should these students decide to attend in person, they will be with the teacher they were assigned at the beginning of the year.

The second type of distance learning is when the whole school is distance learning or the whole cohort is distance learning. In this mode, teachers will incorporate the items in the first scenario but will be able to provide for more time to meet live. There will be recorded lessons, written lessons, as well as video conferencing time with classroom teachers.

During distance learning instruction students will be asked to wear their school uniform if ever in a live scenario, and to be seated at a table or desk and not on their bed or lounged on a couch.

### **Is there a travel policy?**

We are not instituting a formal travel policy. If you do leave the country or travel to a high-incident region of the United States, we ask that you get testing after returning. If you are feeling ill or symptomatic, please seek healthcare and be cognizant of our entire community.

**Will there be Covid-19 tests at school?**

Currently, we do not have any tests at school. If we have symptomatic teachers or students we ask they seek medical care and follow protocols. We will be in communication if testing becomes available. Currently, MDE is providing non-public schools with masks and shields, but not with tests.

**Is there a new tuition policy?**

Tuition must be paid through each semester registered, regardless of whether the child withdraws from the school during the semester. Withdrawal after August 31– families are responsible for 1/2 of the year's tuition. Withdrawal after December 18– families are responsible for the full year's tuition. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the administration reserves the right to grant exceptions to this policy. For current tuition information, call the school office at 763-545-4285.

**Is there school care?**

There will be before and after school care. There will be a separate school care packet for families to read and sign. Before school care begins at 7:00 and after school care is from 2:40-5:30. We are not increasing prices this year. Students in school care will remain cohorted, but may have additional times with other grade level cohort members depending on numbers of students in care each day. There will be a new pick up and drop-off policy as well.

**Will privacy waivers need to be signed?**

Yes. We will ask for waivers to be signed for confidentiality and for acceptance of risk. These waivers will be included in the folder that will be available for pick up on the 20th.

**Will there be sports and activities?**

We are not able to provide SSYO sports this fall. We will continue to monitor what is available for students to participate in and will share offerings with families as they come about. We will not allow activities in the school building before/after hours. Exemptions to this are faith formation – which plans are not decided yet.

**Will we have Mass?**

We will have weekly Mass on Thursday. To start the year, one cohort will go to the church at a time for Mass. Mass will be streamed to classrooms that are not in attendance. We will devote Thursday mornings to prayer. We are working on finding ways for students to lead mass, to invite parents to attend virtually, and to creatively plan to find ways for more participation within the Mass. We will do prayer services, and are working on creating an outdoor place for worship, that could allow for more cohorts being together.

**Can parents volunteer at all?**

Yes! Teachers will ease their way into the year and begin to find opportunities for parents. We know being restricted from the building is very challenging. Whether it is working with a small group outside for reading, sending home items for cutting, or Zooming in a mystery reader or speaker, we will continue to find ways to allow for parents to be a part of the classroom.

**Is there a nurse or counselor?**

In a typical year our district, Hopkins, provides us with nurse hours. We are waiting to hear what they plan to provide for us this fall. We are in the process of seeking volunteer nurses for a couple of hours per day. We will have a school counselor, Mrs. Ferrera. She will be at school on Mondays. Office staff will help with students that are sick. We have updated our nursing space and have areas for students to be separated from other students for when illness arises.

**Contact the school office with additional questions or concerns.**

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or  
dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you  
go.” Joshua 1:9*