



July 21, 2020

Dear Bethany Lutheran Families,

I pray that this letter finds everyone doing well and enjoying these warm summer months. I am sure that most of you may be aware by now that the governor of California has mandated that schools, public and private, move to distance education this fall. However, he also noted that schools could open under one of two conditions. The conditions are as follows:

- *Schools and school districts may reopen for in-person instruction at any time if they are located in a local health jurisdiction (LHJ) that has not been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days.*
- *Schools may also reopen if a waiver is granted. A waiver of this criteria may be granted by the local health officer for elementary schools to open for in-person instruction. A waiver may only be granted if one is requested by the superintendent (or equivalent for charter or private schools)*

After consultation with many of the other area private schools, the CNH district, and Bethany leadership, we are confirming our decision to open as scheduled this fall. We have applied for a waiver to remain open / reopen, and after speaking with Solano County Public Health, we should be green lighted to proceed in a few days.

However, with permission to open comes additional precautions and stipulations which we will have to address and follow. Here are some of the additional guidelines BLS must follow during the first quarter of the school year:

- *School staff are essential workers, and staff includes teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, or any other school employee that may have contact with students or other staff. School districts and schools shall test staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. Examples of recommended frequency include testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time.*
- *Schools open for in-person instruction will implement precautions, including a requirement that students in 3rd grade and above wear masks*
- *Anyone entering the school must do a health screen, and any student or staff exhibiting a fever or other symptoms will be immediately sent home.*
- *The guidance also provides that if anyone in a student or staff member's household is sick, they too should stay home.*

These additional guidelines will be implemented, along with the previous reopening plans which include touchless soap and hand sanitizing dispensers, smaller classroom population, new drop



BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

off and pick points, daily temperature checks for everyone on campus, and health tracking / tracing for all students.

While we understand that additional requirements could and would be implemented throughout the school year, Bethany Lutheran will stay committed to the health and welfare of all of its' stakeholders. This would include closing down the school or class if certain stipulations by the CDC or public health are observed. They would include but are not limited to the following:

- A classroom cohort has to go home when there is a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- The school also has to close when multiple cohorts have cases or if 5% of all teachers and students test positive.
- An entire school district must close when 25% of its schools close within a 14-day period.

We will be partnering with Solano Public Health as a means to stay current with cleaning and sanitation expectations, social distancing requirements, and the care of our students and staff. Therefore, as a reminder, if you have not registered at this point you could be in jeopardy of losing a spot as we must limit class sizes as part of our social distancing measures and precautions.

On a side note: please continue to pray for Mrs. Rush our administrative assistant as she is recovering from hip replacement surgery. She will be working on a limited basis from home over the next few weeks. If you need immediate assistance please contact Natalie Hart at (707) 666-0735, her direct new line.

I look forward to seeing all of you very soon. Please keep a look out for important dates, times, and events as we prepare for the fall return of the BLS students, faculty, and staff.

In HIS Service,

Dr. Chris Smith

Principal – Bethany Lutheran Schools