



Greetings HG Family!

August 17, 2021

The 2021-2022 school year is quickly approaching and the teachers and staff at Holy Ghost are excited for the new opportunities that the new school year will bring. As we prepare for this new school year we must be focussed on God's Word. Our school year theme, this year, comes from the book of Ephesians, where Paul records guidelines for Christians to live as Children of the Light. We are told to be careful how we interact with others and of our need to be thankful. These are important verses for us to keep in mind no matter what the challenges, especially considering the current challenges that we have faced in society and as a school community. I encourage you to read this passage (Ephesians 4:17 through Eph. 5:20) as a family devotion.

I sure am thankful. As I think back to the challenges of last school year, I am amazed at how we pulled together as a school community and overcame so many obstacles, achieving so much. I am thankful for the perseverance of the students, the dedication of the teachers and staff, and the support and partnering of our parents and school leadership. As I look forward to the new year (and it's challenges), I am confident that Holy Ghost Lutheran School will accomplish its mission of delivering a quality Christian education.

I share this message with you as a preface to our Return to School Plan. Please prayerfully consider the following as a family. The evidence shows that there will exist a great difference of opinion on this matter. Let us extend grace to each other through these differences, and be united as a body in Christ.

I look forward to greeting you and your children in person very soon. May the end of your summer days go by slowly, and be blessed with the family time that it affords.

God's blessings,

Kevin Gundell
Principal

Holy Ghost Lutheran School will offer in person instruction, five days per week, for the 2021-2022 school year. The Holy Ghost Lutheran School Board has considered the operating practices of the school, regarding student safety and health due to Covid- 19, and have determined the following reopening plan.

The Return to School Plan defines how Holy Ghost intends to operate for the return to school this year. The plan for this school year includes many practices that were utilized last school year. Similar to last year, the partnering of our parents with the school will be crucial for the plan to be successful. In addition to past practices that worked well for our school operation, the Board recognizes the God-given role of parents in making responsible choices regarding the health of their children, which is reflected in this plan.

The following plan applies to all members of the school population; students, teachers, and staff. School leadership will continue to monitor and consider community based health information and recommendations from local, state, and federal authorities. Experience has shown that there are many variables to consider in making Return to School Plans, and that many of these variables may change, requiring school leadership to reassess. The Board recognizes this responsibility and, as such, the Return to School Plan is subject to change.

Holy Ghost Lutheran School's Return to School Plan 2021-22:

- Parents must assess their children for symptoms that may be related to Covid-19 or other infectious disease before sending them to school, and students and teachers must stay home if they have such symptoms, or possible exposure (contact the office in either case).
- Prior to students attending, parents will be required to sign a Holy Ghost Health Agreement, consenting to the partnering efforts of this Return to School Plan.

Layers of safety precautions will be utilized in the school setting:

- Staff will continue to engage in extensive cleaning and sanitizing procedures.
- At the discretion of the principal, students are subject to temperature and health screening upon arrival to school.
- Proper hand washing and good hygiene practices will continue to be facilitated by staff.
- Ventilation, air purification, and fresh air circulation will be increased.
- Students will remain in cohort groups by class. Teachers will continue the practice of rotating for departmentalized instruction where applicable.
- Social distancing of at least 3 feet or greater will be practiced in the classroom setting.
- Mask rules:
 - Required - in common spaces (building entry, halls, and bathrooms) and while moving around in classrooms
 - Optional (based on parent choice) - anytime outdoors and while seated in the classroom or when learning activities allow for social distancing of 3 feet.
- We recommend the following people wear masks when indoors on campus:
 - Adults who are unvaccinated, including staff.
 - Those who have a weakened immune system or if, because of age or an underlying genetic or medical condition, are at increased risk of severe disease.
 - Those who live with someone in their household who has a weakened immune system or, because of an underlying genetic or medical condition, are at increased risk of severe disease.
 - Anyone who feels most comfortable wearing a mask.
- In the case of exposure or a positive test for Covid-19, Holy Ghost will follow Dept. of Health guidelines for quarantine and the timeline to return to school.

Andrew Klettke
Board of Education Chairman

Kevin Gundell
Principal