



Guardian Lutheran School

Engaging Learners, Equipping Servants,
Empowering Leaders...for Christ

Guardian Families,

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ! I want to begin by assuring you all that you remain in my daily prayers; and I pray, first and foremost, that God's peace and strength would surround you during these challenging times. There is nothing more important now (or ever) than our faith and relationship with our King of Kings!

The goal of this communication is to provide our families with important information on the following topics:

- The completion of the current school year
- Guardian's process for reopening our many ministries
- Guardian's goals and intentions for the 2020-21 school year

Finishing the Current School Year

Each year at this time, our students begin cleaning out their lockers and desks, returning textbooks, library books, band instruments, etc., and school staff finalizes grades and financial accounts. This usually happens smoothly behind the scenes throughout the school day. Obviously, this year is going to be very different. In order to facilitate all this work safely and according to proper social distancing guidelines, we have created a very specific and organized plan.

- Families are assigned a specific day to come to the school building to pick up all student belongings, clean out desks and lockers, and return all textbooks, library books, and other school issued property. The building will be open for these purposes between 9:00AM-Noon and 5PM-8PM. In order to enter the school both students and adults must wear a face covering and adhere to social distancing while in the building (students under age 6 do not need to wear a face covering). Also, all individuals entering the building will be subject to a temperature check. Only one parent/adult may enter the building with the student. *Please note, these dates are contingent upon the governor lifting the Stay Home Order.*

Student Last Name A-D	Monday, June 1
Student Last Name E-H	Tuesday, June 2
Student Last Name J-M	Wednesday, June 3
Student Last Name N-R	Thursday, June 4
Student Last Name S-Z	Friday, June 5

* List of School Issued Property being Collected:

- All non-consumable textbooks
- Library and/or classroom books and novels
- Chromebooks loaned out for At Home Learning (with charging cord)
- School band instruments
- Girls basketball uniforms

- One of my favorite annual events is our closing chapel service and awards assembly. The current Covid crisis prevents us from holding this event in person, however, it is our plan to record the service as we have been doing with our chapel services and email it to all families. That recording will also include the announcement of our year-end awards. Due to the closure of our awards vendor, this taping will be delayed until the week of June 8th. Therefore, you won't receive this closing chapel service and awards assembly video until Thursday, June 11th.

- Lastly, we are planning on holding a "Drive-through Awards Celebration." This will be an opportunity for students to pick up any year-end awards that they won, have their "socially distanced" picture taken with their favorite teacher, and thank their teacher for a great year! The date of this event is TBD. We don't want to set a date yet in case the Stay Home Order is extended and other activities have to be moved back.

Guardian's Reopening Process

As you may already know, at the start of the Covid crisis Guardian formed the Covid Response Team (CRT) made up of diverse church and school leadership to manage our organization through this unexpected emergency. It was the CRT that set-up and implemented the process for closing down our many ministries and for managing the financial, facility, communications, and people care impacts on our organization and our people.

Guardian's Council has now tasked the CRT with overseeing the safe and responsible reopening of our ministries. The CRT has already begun working with ministry leaders to develop comprehensive reopening plans that focus on restarting our ministries in a timely manner, but also in a way that recognizes the safety of our people must come first. As we begin moving forward, if you have any questions or concerns for the Covid Response Team, you may email them to me (CRT Chairman) at principal@guardianlutheran.org.

2020-21 School Year Goals & Intentions

Let me be very clear about one point upfront, while Guardian has very clear goals and intentions for the 2020-21 school year, we are over three months away from the scheduled first day of school. A lot can change in three months, and it would be irresponsible to finalize a comprehensive plan today, knowing that information and realities change over time. Just think back to December 18th, exactly 3 months before we began At Home Learning. I don't know about you, but a worldwide quarantine and a mandated school shut down, resulting in At Home Learning was not even a figment in my imagination. Therefore, while the planning of scenarios for the fall has already begun, I will not have final answers to your many specific questions until more federal, state, and local guidance (and possible mandates) is available. What I can assure you is that whatever the detailed plan ends up looking like, it will include all the safeguards that are necessary to prioritize the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. You can expect that all the time, energy, care, and resources that went into adjusting for At Home Learning, will also go into the readjusting back to at school learning.

That being said, it is Guardian's complete intention to start the 2020-21 school year on time and in person. It is with this goal in mind that we begin constructing multiple in person learning scenarios. These scenarios include a number of possible health and safety safeguards, some of which may be...

- Increased cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school day
- Health screenings for all people entering the building
- Wearing of masks for both staff and students
- Limiting building access to visitors and parents
- Altering the physical layouts of rooms and common spaces to increase social distancing
- Changes to arrival and pick-up procedures
- Changes to how and where food is served and consumed

While our intentions are to begin on time and in person, we also understand that many circumstances are beyond our control. Therefore, we are also currently evaluating the effectiveness of our At Home Learning systems and processes, to improve where improvement is needed and enhance and expand our best practices. All this is being done so that we are ready and able to quickly and smoothly transition to At Home Learning if the need ever arises. However, let me be crystal clear, short of a state or federal mandate, we intend to be safely back at school. No matter how good our At Home Learning system is, nothing can replace the nurturing and loving social environment found in a Christian school (especially at Guardian)!

Never has Guardian had a more appropriately timed school year theme and verse than this year's "Peace Through Prayer." God's timing is truly AMAZING! "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

In Service to Christ,



Matthew Dummann, Principal
Guardian Lutheran School

Guardian **strong**