



Faith School District #46-2

CONTINUED OPENING PLAN

December 10, 2025

This is a living document that is subject to change. Please refer to the digitally published version on the school website, and social media for up to date changes.

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Approved by Faith School Board: 8/10/2020

<https://faith.k12.sd.us/>

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OVERVIEW

In response to the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the nation, Faith School District closed schools in mid-March 2020 by order of the Governor through state health orders. Since that time there has been continual uncertainty as school districts grapple with the issue of returning to school in the fall. [Guidance](#) from the South Dakota Department of Education provides some structure for school districts, but the guidance necessarily relies on communities to make the best decisions for their students. This reopening plan is our community's approach to reopening school in August 2020. Simply stated, our approach is to resume school operations as close to normal as possible with implementation of health and safety precautions for students and staff.

We realize that there is still a great deal of uncertainty as coronavirus cases increase. This reopening plan will be evaluated and adapted continually to meet the necessary changes. Our commitment to our community is to communicate routinely with specific changes to the reopening plan and updates as required by state and local health officials. The school district will post changes to the reopening plan on the district [website](#), local newspaper, and communicate via social media channels.

This initial plan will provide specific guidance for the health and safety of our students and staff, and a description of the various approaches the school district may use to provide an educational program for students. Please anticipate updates to the reopening plan every two weeks. Parents, students, and teachers can expect specific communication and an updated version of the reopening plan at the beginning of August.



The school district will strive to continue to have open schools as close to normal as possible.

INTRODUCTION

The school district acknowledges that there is no way to guarantee a totally safe environment from an infectious disease, but implementing best practices and following deliberate procedures has proven to significantly reduce the risk and the spread of the coronavirus infection. Google Classroom is our designed learning management system to deliver our state aligned curriculum to our students.

Safety of Students, Staff, and Community/Visitors

Parents

Parents and guardians are an integral part of our school district. The Faith School District is asking parent(s)/guardian(s) to please temperature check your child(ren) at home before sending them to school. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are the first line of defense in assisting schools with identifying students who have a temperature above 100.4 degrees and/or are ill should not attend school. Any student, with a temperature above 100.4 degrees, will be asked to stay home. The student will need to stay home until their temperature is below 100.4 degrees for 24 hours without the aid of any medications. See graphic below for symptoms.

Students

If a student spikes a temperature during the school day the student will be sent and isolated in the ICE (Isolate, Contact, and Exit) room. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted, and the student will be isolated until they can be picked up.

Staff

Staff members are encouraged to take their temperatures at home. If a staff member has a temperature above 100.4 degrees, they must stay home until their temperature is below 100.4 degrees for 24 hours without the aid of any medications.

Community/Visitors

Community members and visitors will **NOT** be allowed into the classrooms or areas outside of the office areas during the school day. Access to the office will be through the sliding glass window. Any parents or community members needing to conduct business with the school can enter through the main doors and business will be done through the sliding glass windows at the receptionist desk.

Preventative Student Education

Students will have additional time built into their school schedule to accommodate hand washing/hand sanitizing procedures during the school day. Elementary classrooms will have frequent sanitizing of shared areas after use by students and staff. Middle school and high school students will sanitize their seating areas, as

they transition to and from classrooms. Posters for correct hand washing and hand sanitizing procedures will be in restrooms, hallways, and classrooms.

Respiratory Etiquette

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues and throw them away.
- Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

In-person school is the preferred method of education for all children. However, high COVID-19 rates may disrupt in-person school and impact learning for some children. Administration, the Special Education Director, Special Education teachers, and classroom teachers will discuss the best and safest school options and needed accommodations with your child's health care providers and educators and work together to develop creative, flexible and responsive accommodations as a way to implement or update IEP and 504 plans.

Covid -19 Vaccination Opportunities

Faith School District works closely with our Horizon Health Community Clinic. They provide vaccination opportunities for staff and students if they choose. We believe that the vaccine is a personal choice.

Services to Address Students' Needs

- Academic, Social, Emotional, & Mental Health Needs

All students will have access to new curriculum in the elementary, middle, and high school. The addition of one new FTE non-certified instructional staff member will provide our students with a smaller student:teacher ratio creating a more accommodating learning environment. Summer school as identified through needs assessments and teacher recommendations. Faith School District has a signed contract from Three Rivers Mental Health to provide services to our students twice a month. Referral to additional mental health counselors will be done if need be!

Services to Address Staff Needs

The staff's mental health is of the utmost importance for our school district. Adding an additional paraprofessional decreased student to teacher ratio which will improve mental well being. Many professional conversations will take place and further accommodations will be discussed if need be.

General Disinfection Measures Protocol

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/day

Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	At least 4 times a day
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	At the end of each use
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups

The site has been 100% disinfected and continues to be cleaned and disinfected daily. The school will be 100% cleaned and sanitized for the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Deep Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol

Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID 19 based on testing.

Social (Physical) Distancing

Maintaining appropriate social (physical) distance has proven to be an effective strategy for stopping the spread of coronavirus. The school district is making every effort to expand the usable spaces in all facilities and use procedures to limit movement in the building especially in common areas. Educators do realize that students need to move.

- School Arrival
 - Students will enter their respective doorways to their classrooms **7:45 -8:00 am. Doors will be locked until 7:45 am unless prior arrangements have been made.**
 - Main Door (Grades K-12)
 - Schools will establish traffic patterns and limit movement in common areas and transition areas and times during the school day.
- School day
 - Elementary
 - Supplies will not be shared- each child will have their own supplies (crayons, scissors, glue, pencils, etc.)
 - Lunches will be staggered to allow more distance between students. Each grade will have their own table.

- K-3 -- 10:55-11:15 am
 - 4-6 -- 11:20- 11:40 am
 - Recess will be outside unless inclement weather occurs then recess will be in the classroom.
 - Movement in the hallway will be directional
- Secondary
 - Middle school and high school students will sanitize their seating areas, as they transition to and from classrooms.
 - Supplies will not be shared- each child will have their own supplies (crayons, scissors, glue, pencils, etc.)
 - Lunches will be staggered and each grade will be assigned to their own table to allow more distance between students
 - 7-8 -- 11:55 - 12:05 pm
 - 9-12 -- 12:10 - 12:30 pm
 - Grades 7-12 with parental permission open campus during lunch
- School Dismissal
 - Parents will **not** be allowed to come into the building to pick up their child unless an appointment has been made.
 - Students will have a staggered dismissal time.
 - K-3 dismissed at 3:30 pm
 - 9-12 dismissed at 3:33 pm
 - 4-8 dismissed at 3:35 pm
 - Students will use their respective doors to leave the building.

Close Contact

Close contacts are considered close contacts if they have had 15 minutes of contact with a Covid positive person throughout the day. The South Dakota Department of Education has allowed school districts to handle quarantining close contacts at their discretion. If choosing to quarantine, please follow CDC Guidelines [CDC Quarantine Guidelines](#). The Faith School will allow close contacts to choose between coming to school, asymptomatic, while wearing a mask or staying home during the determined quarantine period.

Food Service

In order to accommodate increased social distancing during student meals the school district will add additional seating for students. Each grade will have their own designated table. Campus will be open for grades 7-12 with parental permission. Seniors will have an Open Campus during lunch. The administration may determine that some classes will eat in their classrooms if needed to try and adhere to social distancing recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and S.D. DOH. If remote learning shall commence, our cooking staff will provide our students with sack lunches.

Grading

Students will be expected to complete their assignments to the best of their ability. Faith School District will provide a rigorous state standard aligned curriculum to our students provided by the teachers of the Faith School District. The grading policy in the handbook will be used when grading work regardless of the way curriculum is delivered.

Attendance-for full eLearning implementation

If the South Dakota Department of Health deems that Faith School needs to move to full elearning implementation, daily attendance will look a little different. Students will be considered present in elearning when they complete their work weekly for each enrolled course. Students who only complete a portion of the work for a given period will be counted absent for a similar percentage of the week. Students who fail to complete any of the work for the expected week will be counted absent for the entire week. **Each week the courses will run from Monday morning until Sunday night at 11:59 pm mountain time. Weekly assignments are due on Sunday evenings at 11:59 pm each week unless otherwise noted.**

Example- In a given week, a sophomore student enrolled in the Faith School District will have Mrs. Geffre, Mrs. Fishbach, Mrs. Garrigan, and Mrs. King each day. Each teacher may assign an assignment each day. The student would need to have all assignments for each class turned in for the week by Sunday night at 11:59 pm, mountain time. Assignments may be turned in as completed but no later than Sunday night at 11:59pm.

School Issued Devices/Materials

Each student, K-12, will have a school issued device. Each family will have to pay \$25 per child/ \$50 per family for their devices. These devices and any school materials will have to be taken home and returned to school each day. These devices will be used to address students' academic needs. Students will be able to use these devices to avoid any additional learning loss Covid may cause.

Locker Rooms

While in locker rooms, students are to practice social distancing, which means to try and stay 6 feet from others as a normal practice. Eliminate contact with others, such as handshakes. Avoid touching surfaces touched by others to the extent feasible. Avoid anyone who is coughing, sneezing or appears to be sick. School Locker rooms will be fogged on a nightly basis.

Buses

During bus travel to away contests and for transportation to practice for cooperative programs, schools should strongly consider assigned seating and mandating the use of cloth face masks by everyone on the bus to assist with contact tracing and potentially assist with the numbers confirmed close contact.

Masks/Face Shield

At the current time we will not be mandating a mask/face shield in the facilities during the school day. Students and faculty wishing to wear a mask/face shield will be allowed in the school facilities.

Global Plasma Solutions Units

Installing the Global Plasma Solutions Unit is another strategy to help the Faith School District combat the novel Coronavirus. The Faith School Board 46-2 purchased this system to improve air quality in the school building. The system will clean the air inside the building by ionizing the air to capture airborne particles and kill pathogens, including viruses (coronavirus), mold spores, and bacteria. This GPS system will be in the HVAC system and will accommodate the main building, locker rooms, old music room, gym, kitchen and cafeteria.

Explanation of Faith School District's Tier System

The continued uncertainty requires that the school district create flexible learning options to ensure that students can continue their learning. The administration will work with the S.D. DOH and our local health care providers to determine the best course of action within our school district. If the number of cases increases, the school district will move down a Tier unless more prevention is needed, based on the advice from S.D. DOH and our local health care providers. The administration will work with the S.D. DOH and our local health care providers to determine the best course of action within our school district. If the number of cases increases, we will move down a Tier, unless a more preventative Tier is needed, based on S.D. DOH and our local health care providers advice.

Scenario 1: Traditional Learning: In-person learning for all students with adaptation to programs and space as required by social distancing health standards. Students and families can expect different door entrances for their students as well as some staggered schedules. Handwashing times will be built into the day. Extra sanitization and cleaning will occur.

Scenario 2a: A/B schedule. This scenario will occur if we need to take further mitigation steps to minimize the movement within the building. If this scenario arises, students in grades 4-12 will attend periods 1, 3, 5 and 7 on Day A and periods 2, 4, 6 and 7 on Day B. This scenario will reduce the amount of movement in the building as students will be changing classes half the time. This may happen if there are cases in the community that are not tied to the school. If further mitigation is needed beyond Day A and Day B look to Scenario 2b for further details

Scenario 2b: Family Schedule. In addition to Scenario 2a we will be further mitigating by families. There will be a family Day A and Day B to reduce the number of students in the facility.

Scenario 3: Full time Remote Learning: This will be implemented if directed by state and county health officials. In this model, the school district will provide our state standard aligned curriculum created by the Faith School District Staff through our designated learning management system. Regardless of your child's location, they are expected to do school work via Google Classroom.

See SD DOE School Scenarios for guidance.



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