



New Covenant
Lutheran School

July 24, 2020

Dearest New Covenant Families,

After many weeks of uncertainty and inability to provide clarity to you all, we feel confident in our ability to provide you with a better expectation at this point in time. After sending 2 surveys and receiving feedback from many of you, we want you to know that we hear you and we will do all we can to fill your needs. The most recent survey results have revealed the following information:

- Families responded – 76%
- Families prepared to send their children back to school in person – 50%
- Families who are looking for a distance learning option to start the school year – 23%
- Families who are not prepared to send their child(ren) in person yet – 22%

We are grateful for the feedback, as I know you have been inundated with these surveys recently. We have personally read every comment and are working to fill as many of your needs as we are able to. Based on the results above, it is clear that at least half of our families are prepared to send their children back to school, with the proper precautions in place. We are finishing up our reopening plan and hope to have that sent out to you within the next week. This plan will outline exactly what challenges we are facing and how we will address them together, as a loving and supportive community.

After thorough review of your responses, it also became clear that the bulk of our families are not interested in the distance learning option to start the school year. We are aware that it is not ideal to learn online in the early childhood educational environment. It is because of this that we are making the difficult decision to eliminate that option in individual classes. Without the proper enrollment in this program, it becomes a financial hazard for us as an organization. Therefore, we will work in the coming weeks to release distance learning options for those of you who are interested in starting the school year this way. Please stay tuned for this information, which should help clarify how we plan to fill the needs of the 23% of you who are interested in our NEW Distance Learning program to start the school year.

As you are probably aware COVID cases in Arizona have been on the downslope recently and we are praying that we will see this trend continue. With optimism, hope, and prayer we have developed the reopening criteria below. Using this data to determine our reopening plan and date allows us to remain diligent to keeping the health and safety of our children, staff, and families as our top priority. I hope that we will be able to provide you with a target date for reopening by next week. The criteria we are basing our reopening decisions on are the following:

- A downward trajectory of positive COVID-19 cases over the course of 28 days
- A decrease in percentage of positive COVID-19 tests for at least 28 days (7-day rolling average)

We know and respect that every family has their own unique situation and comfort level with all that we are facing. Because of this we are working to ensure that we provide you options for your enrollment, participation, and financial circumstances. I understand as a mother, educator, and child of God that our faith right now must remain extremely BIG. So, I encourage you to share your concerns with me and come to me with prayers or requests. I want to support you and respond to your needs in any way possible. I am looking forward to bringing you more information next week. Sending you all my love and HUGE virtual hugs for your little ones! Praying we get to be together very soon!

In Faith and Love,

Dana J. Engstrom

Dana Engstrom
Director