



Our Mission

Zion Lutheran School provides a Christ centered approach to education. This education nurtures the child's faith, equipping him/her to use and share that faith on a daily basis.

Our Vision

That every child knows Jesus as his or her personal Lord and Savior

Sunday, March 15th, 2020

*Zion Lutheran School Closure
March 17th-March 30th*

Parents of Zion Lutheran School,

First and foremost, thank you for your patience and understanding while we navigate a situation in which no one in our country has any experience and for your open-mindedness and support as the staff members work together to plan an at-home learning experience for our students.

Second, I need to clarify closure dates with all of you as we received an update from the Illinois State Board of Education on Friday night after initial information had already been shared with you.

- **Monday, March 16th** - School schedule is normal from 7am before school care to 6pm after school care. We will be giving students information and instructions to equip them for the next two weeks of learning at home. If you are not comfortable sending your children to school on Monday, please make an effort to send an adult to school between 1pm and 4pm to pick up materials (and Chromebooks for 3rd and 4th graders) in the school lobby.
- **Tuesday, March 17th** - first day of state-mandated school closure.
- **Tuesday, March 31st** - school is currently scheduled to resume on this date (not March 30th as previously shared).

Next, as we met on Friday and Saturday, we discussed our goals for students, teachers, and families during the closure. What follows are our main goals, academic goals, and communication goals.

MAIN GOALS

1. **Zion's mission and vision** are to keep Christ at the center of all learning and development for our students. In an unprecedented and uncertain time, we want to help families navigate life for their children from a Christian perspective. Our primary objective is to care for you and your children academically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
2. For these two weeks, you will notice our teachers' **main focus will be cumulative review** to prevent students' skills from regressing (especially in math and lower grade reading skills). In the upper grades, new concepts will be introduced sparingly and with thoughtful and detailed planning that includes the method new information is shared with students and what students can do if they do not understand the new content.

3. **Keep it simple.** We recognize that each family's plan for providing care and educational time for students is going to look different. We want our plans to be simple enough for any family to follow.

ACADEMIC GOALS

- K-2 students will use "Freckle" online website as a primary delivery method of activities.
- 3rd-8th students will use Google Classroom online as a primary delivery method of activities and assignments.
 - ◆ 3rd & 4th graders will be allowed to take home their classroom Chromebooks. Zion's devices are equipped with a program called "GoGuardian" which helps ZLS monitor and control any suspicious or unauthorized activity.
 - ◆ New concepts will be introduced sparingly and with plenty of instructional tools to aid in student comprehension.
- Students should have no more than 3 activities per subject (math, reading/literature, English, history/social studies, science) in a week.
- Work will be submitted digitally at the direction of the teacher. **No paperwork should be expected to return to school.** We did not want families to have to keep track of paperwork for two weeks (nor did we want to inundate teachers with grading upon returning to school).
- We are making every effort to share and teach content and activities without sending home textbooks.
- Teachers have been asked to send parents a list of websites or videos that contain supplemental, educational material for students to use during their free and at-home academic time.
- All work will be clearly communicated as "required for a grade" or "optional"
- Students and parents should be able to choose the pace at which "required" assignments are completed (within the week). We do this because we are not aware of each family's arrangements for child care.

COMMUNICATION GOALS

- You will receive a daily email from the church and school with a Family Devotion, activity, and prayer for the day or night. This will serve as our religion curriculum for families.
- The daily email will contain any updates regarding school closure and school activities that are being postponed, rescheduled, or cancelled along with other important school information.
- Teachers are expected to communicate with homeroom families *at least* 2 times a week via email.
Communications should include:
 - ◆ Reminders for work
 - ◆ Additional resources
 - ◆ Updates on new academic work
 - ◆ Emphasis of school office messages
- Teachers have been asked to be "on call" from 8am-3pm every day. They should respond quickly to your emails and other messages with questions.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **Suggestions (Daily Schedule)** - Also attached to this email is a great resource for scheduling a learning day at home (found online by our staff). We made a few adjustments to it before sharing with you. We've also included an age-appropriate chore chart and recommended screen time from the AAP. We hope that you find these resources helpful as you develop your daily routines.
- **Calendar Changes** - cancellations, postponements, and rescheduled events as of today. Stay tuned for more.
 - Monday, March 16th - come to school for the day or drop by in the afternoon to pick up materials
 - Monday, March 16th - Sports Banquet **CANCELLED**
 - Tuesday, March 17th - school closed and all activities cancelled during closure
 - Saturday, March 21st - School Auction **RESCHEDULED** to Friday, May 1st
 - March 23-27 & March 30-April 3 - Iowa Testing **POSTPONED**
 - Friday, March 27 - Festival of Arts **CANCELLED** (*we will work on refunds for choir participants and the scheduling of selected performances for chapels, church, and other events*)
- **Childcare Connections**- Facebook group to connect those seeking babysitters from within our community or to volunteer as a person who can babysit for parents who need to report to work. Request to join the closed, private "Childcare Connection - Zion Lutheran Church and School" Open ONLY to Zion Church and School families to make connections if you need help during the school closure.

The staff of Zion Lutheran Church and School are trusting in and depending on God's guidance to care for our students, staff, and families in the best possible way. As Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever". Regardless of what is happening around us, God's love and all His other promises to us remain constant. His steadfastness brings me peace, and I pray that it does for you, too. Trust that no matter what happens, God is on the throne, and He is in control.

In His Service,

Mrs. Ananda Baron, principal

