



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

## C O S T A M E S A

Christ Lutheran Parents,

July 21, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every area of life here in Southern California. Throughout late spring and summer, Christ Lutheran has worked diligently on preparing three learning models for the upcoming school year. Even with the governor's announcement Friday, it is the intention of Christ Lutheran to do everything possible to have on-campus learning.

The California Department of Public Health set out guidelines for schools after Governor Newsom's announcement. View the document [here](#). The guidelines allow for a waiver to be requested by elementary schools to continue to operate face-to-face even if the county is not off the state monitoring list. The waiver requirement reads:

*A waiver of this criteria may be granted by the local health officer for elementary schools to open for in-person instruction. A waiver may only be granted if one is requested by the superintendent (or equivalent for charter or private schools), in consultation with labor, parent and community organizations. Local health officers must review local community epidemiological data, consider other public health interventions, and consult with CDPH when considering a waiver request.*

Christ Lutheran is pursuing this waiver request. It is unknown how long it will take for a decision to be made, at the county level. Parents who feel comfortable can reach out to Orange County Supervisor Michelle Steel with emails, phone calls, or social media to kindly advocate for Christ Lutheran's waiver to be granted. The more voices the county hears from Christ Lutheran, the better. A sample email or phone call/voicemail script has been provided along with the contact information at the end of this letter.

If the waiver is granted, Christ Lutheran will proceed with the three learning models that have been outlined: On-Campus Learning, Distance Learning, and Blended Learning. In the parent survey for learning models, 93% of surveyed parents indicated they want on-campus learning and 7% indicated distance learning. Christ Lutheran is committed to providing these options and is following all state guidelines, for a safe school environment.

In the event the waiver is not granted, and Orange County does not meet the required state thresholds, Christ Lutheran will have no choice but to comply with the state mandate and offer only distance learning until the county meets the state criteria for 14 days. *We assure you we are returning to campus as soon as the mandate is lifted, and our focus remains consistent, lessons are delivered, accountable learning takes place, and teachers are present and available throughout the school day (8-3).*

At the end of the 2019-20 school year, the teachers spent time evaluating the "emergency distance learning" which took place and reflected on what worked well and what needed to change. Moving forward into the 2020-21 school year, plans are already underway to create a curriculum which develops the self-directed learner and provides a robust, exceptional learning experience successfully in both on-campus and distance learning environments. Research, sound educational practices, and the social-emotional development of the child are at the forefront of all our learning models. Our distance learning model is developed to offer support, instruction, learning activities, and interactions for a successful educational experience.

A few highlights of whole-campus distance learning (may be subject to slight change)

- Daily live, whole class check-ins (School day starts at 8:30)
- Daily live teacher connections to include whole class, small group, and collaborative student learning
- Online Daily Lessons Plans for students with goal setting opportunities
- Daily checkpoints for student understanding, development, and mastery of standards
- Robust learning platforms:
  - K-3 (Seesaw) and 4-8 (Google Classroom)
  - IXL, Readworks, Lalilo (K-2), ALEKS (6-8), Mystery Science (K-5), and digital platforms associated with textbooks
  - Nearpod digital lessons with teacher personalizations
  - Teacher recorded lessons
  - Project Based Learning integration
  - Attention to developing on-screen and off-screen experiences
- Digital and Paper Materials: Students are supplied with digital learning logins for our subscription platforms, books, workbooks, and tactile materials to use at home as well as digital lesson materials.
- Teacher presence from 8 am to 3 pm connecting with the students throughout the day, providing feedback on homework, assessing student progress, and developing and delivering curriculum
- Student Support Services for students enrolled in our Learning Lab program
- Art lessons and PE challenges weekly (live and/or asynchronously)
- Music classes weekly (live or asynchronously)
- Faith based discipleship classes, character, and faith development interwoven in all we do
- Attention to the social and emotional wellbeing of each student

Christ Lutheran is committed to a successful school year! Academics, social emotional development, and faith are pillars in our education in all our learning models. Whether on-campus or at a distance, learning is interconnected, personalized, and offers core academics with authentic mastery.

On campus, new behaviors will be practiced to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19. Read the Safety and Health Plan [here](#). Teachers are implementing protocols and procedures to equip students with tools to adapt to changing situations. We continue to connect as one community and rejoice in Christ Jesus, knowing He rules over all that happens in our world and listens to our prayers.

We continue to prayerfully seek guidance on all school decisions as we approach the start of the new school year. We thank you for your continued patience, trust, and partnership in Christ Lutheran.

MARSHA HAFER / Principal



**\*\*See Sample Correspondence for Supervisor Michelle Steele below\*\***

Michelle Steel  
Supervisor, Second District

10 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701

(714) 834-3220

[Michelle.Steel@ocgov.com](mailto:Michelle.Steel@ocgov.com)

<https://twitter.com/TaxFighterSteel>

<https://www.facebook.com/taxpayersadvocate>

<https://www.instagram.com/taxfightersteel/>

*\*\*Sample Correspondence\*\**

Dear Supervisor Michelle Steel,

I am a parent at Christ Lutheran School in Costa Mesa. Christ Lutheran recently submitted a waiver for elementary schools to open for on campus learning (face-to-face) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

My family strongly believes on-campus, face-to-face learning is best for the overall wellbeing of my child and the necessity of our family. I am a working parent and need to send my child to school so that I can earn a living and participate in the Orange County economy. I have read Christ Lutheran's health, safety and reopening planning document as well as the school protocols for COVID-19 and am confident that they are keeping children and adults safe. We are fortunate to be part of a small school with large classrooms, outdoor learning spaces, and protective elements of clear barrier shields are in place so we can comply with CDC guidelines and maintain a safe, healthy environment.

As a family in Orange County, I value private, Christian education because it coincides with my family's beliefs and foundational values. If Christ Lutheran is not granted a waiver to open on-campus learning, this will greatly jeopardize my family welfare and the ability to work, as well as my child's ability to learn in a quality environment with Christian education.

Please work closely with Dr. Chau to carefully review Christ Lutheran's waiver and give it the full recourse. We believe that Christ Lutheran is a safe and exceptional school for my child(ren), and it has proven it can be open during this pandemic face-to-face while still following all CDPH guidelines and keeping children and my family safe.

Sincerely,

Marsha Hafer

Principal