



Happy August to you all!

I hope that all of our families continue to enjoy the beautiful Wisconsin summer, while staying healthy and managing the ever-evolving rules of the world. Thank you to everyone that has gone out of their way to welcome me to the Shepherd community.

The teachers and staff are working diligently to prepare Shepherd of the Hills for whatever will come our way as we look ahead to the 2020-21 school year. Please know that the information shared here represents our latest understanding and is **ABSOLUTELY SUBJECT TO CHANGE** as data and regulations seem to be continually changing. Next week, we will get an update based on our local data and any changes to our "Phase" or "Status" leading into the new school year. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee, our sister Catholic and neighboring schools, and the Fond du Lac County and State Health Departments are all providing information to help us plan to open and operate as safely as possible.

FdL Health: <https://www.fdlco.wi.gov/departments/departments-f-m/health-department/covid-19-coronavirus>

Archdiocese of Milwaukee: <https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates.htm>

With that backdrop, here are a few notes that I believe will help as you plan for the new year:

Reopening Comeback Plan

Shepherd plans to open face-to-face, in-person with classes for all 3K-8 students 5 days per week. As a good reminder of the fluid nature of things, our expectations about masks changed last week by Governor Tony Evers. I believe we will effectively adapt our use of masks, drop off/pick up/bus procedures, attendance, sanitizing, cleaning, social distancing, what happens when there is a COVID positive test or exposure, etc. based on current law and age appropriateness for the children. The full details of our Comeback Plan will be shared later next week after our August 11 update from the Fond du Lac Health Department. Thank you for your patience, trust and confidence that as a school, through all the information I referenced above, we will do everything we can to ensure a quality spiritual and academic experience in a safe environment.

Enrollment and Referrals

Many of our grade levels have room to offer students proper social distancing spacing to allow for an in-person school environment. If you have friends and neighbors that are looking for a great school for their children, please share my contact for information. (920)477-3551 x 209 or rsmyczek@sothparish.org

We held a lovely parent informational meeting for our Early Childhood Program last Thursday evening. Families that are both enrolled and considering enrollment heard from our teachers about the amazing benefits of our program and in-person learning. If you could not attend, you can find the powerpoint presentation on our school website. Click on "[Academics](#)," and then scroll down to either the 3K Program or 4K Program.

Walking the path of Christ with love and service through a Catholic education.

School Supply Dropoff and Pictures - August 25

The hours of this event have been extended to 12:00-6:00 PM to allow for social distancing. Please use the link below to sign up for a time to come drop off school supplies, get your school pictures taken by Quick and Smart, pay your school fees, and turn in your completed forms.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wcy-fCoCV-YigO2FqJaOGfFoESHLsvwPH9kOrcMGe44/edit?usp=sharing>

PowerSchool/Standards-Based Grading

Shepherd of the Hills is saying good-bye to Option C and moving to a different Student Data Information System called "PowerSchool." You will be receiving a login that is tied to logistical items like attendance, as well as grades, report cards, alerts and the like. Mrs. Hively and our teachers have been attending online training and will be utilizing this new system in 2020-21. As a benefit, this system aligns nicely with the Archdiocesan expectation that all schools use Standards-Based Grading (SBG). All teachers have had many hours of training in SBG and had a first run during the virtual learning last spring. I will share some of the background articles to explain the model and why it is a quality, preferred assessment system in the near future.

Steak Fry Cancelled

Due to current COVID-19 circumstances, we found ourselves in the difficult position when attempting to plan and prepare for the year's Dollars for Scholars Steak Fry. Could this be done safely, yet falling within the current guidelines set forth by county, archdiocese and state officials? The answer became a resounding, we don't know, which has led to the postponement of the event. This event has raised almost \$10,000 annually for tuition assistance for the students at SOTH and we could not have done it without all of the wonderful people that support our school and parish community. Even though we have found ourselves in a unique time, are you willing to be a sponsor or give an in-kind donation to help support our school and keep this "Steak Fry" tradition going with a monetary donation? If so, please make your check payable to SOTH and put Steak Fry in the memo and place your check in the mail, offertory basket, or give to anyone in the school or parish office. Thank you for your continued support of our school. We could not be successful without you! Shannon Casper & Sheila Zook, co-chairs

I thank you for your understanding as all of us are navigating these novel circumstances and times. In these moments, we are fortunate to be at a great place like Shepherd of the Hills, where our faith binds us to our God and each other. Many plans that have been proposed are now in the trash as the rules and expectations shift. One thing that does not change is that we are blessed: we have Jesus Christ, THE master teacher, who models how we can rise above even the most stressful obstacles to be our best and be His presence in the world. Our wonderful staff will guide you and your family to a terrific year of learning and growth!

These bits of our tentative plans will be updated with a reasonable level of certainty and detail next week, as we choose the best plans based on the latest data and regulations. I will then offer opportunities to ask questions and clarify as many of the concerns as possible. I thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Have a wonderful week and embrace gratitude for all the blessings in our world!

Mr. Smyczek

Principal

Walking the path of Christ with love and service through a Catholic education.