

Looking Back

Wow! What a year it has been. As we pull the spacing dots off of the floor, stack up the desk shields, and play last day games in the tent; it's clear that we have come a long way together. When the school year began we were unsure of what would happen from one week to the next. There were certainly many bumps along the way but as a community I think we all learned some valuable lessons about not taking our gifts for granted. The notes that I received from students revealed that they are thankful for the privilege of coming to school and learning with their classmates. Parents appreciate a staff who will do whatever it takes to keep kids learning in ways that are fun and engaging. In so many tangible ways, the staff has been reassured this year that they are working with families who truly appreciate them. Similarly, after a year where we often struggled to cover every class every day, I know I will never take a healthy, happy staff for granted again.

As we cross the finish line of this school year together, I cannot thank our parent partners enough for your prayers, your patience, and your incredible support during this historic school year. We made it!

God Bless,
Ms. Favret

Looking Forward

Parents can expect that barring an unforeseen pandemic turn, things at Little Flower will pretty much be back to normal next year. Schools will still have more COVID restrictions than the general public, but in many important ways we will be able to loosen up.

Our full plan for reopening has not been approved yet. Things might change, but here are some of the highlights of what we anticipate when we return in September.

Fairly Certain

- We will continue to wear masks, wash hands frequently, switch classes less often, and observe some social distancing. Symptomatic staff and students may be asked to stay home until the cause of their symptoms is clear.
- Our regular school day for students will be 8:05 to 3:05. We will be on campus Monday through Fridays.
- We will go back to regular arrival and dismissal. Daily temperature checks will occur in the classrooms as part of attendance.
- We will go back to two lunch periods. We will offer milk and hot lunch like we used to.
- Some classes will be taught in whole grade groupings, but most of the day students will be taught in smaller sections of 9-16 students. Unlike this year, those sections will mix and change during the day. Kindergarten, third, fifth, and seventh grade students will begin their day in whole grade groupings. Other grades will start in different

cohorts. The office will send class/cohort assignments with other information during the second week of August.

- The two second grade cohorts will learn in two portable classrooms that will face the first grade rooms near the mulched playground.
- Most of our special subjects will be back. Students will have French, Spanish, library, art, physical education, and technology enrichment. We will be adding performing arts as a special class at many grade levels. We will not offer music during the day, but we hope to offer music enrichment (choir, musical) as an after school opportunity.
- With precautions, we will be able to take field trips.
- We intend to go back to having grade levels go to 8:15 Mass on an assigned day, every other week. We will go back to having the whole school worshipping together at the noon Mass on the first Friday of every month. We also look forward to bringing back many of our other favorite, whole school liturgies.

Still Unsure

- We are not yet sure about whether or not we will be able to offer aftercare. We hope to be able to do this. We are working to hire a director and to get our license renewed. The Office of Child Care is still requiring extensive COVID precautions. It is unclear if these will loosen as younger children can get vaccinated. Ms. Favret will send a whole school notice this summer as soon as the aftercare situation becomes definite.
- We will be using the Parish Hall for lunch. It is just unclear whether we will be able to fit all students in given the current spacing requirements. Some students will also still be able to eat under the tent on non-hot lunch days.
- We have been asked to continue to have restrictions about parents volunteering in classrooms. We want to have parents in the building so we are exploring what this might look like next school year.
- Grade level groups will be able to mix on the playground, but we are not yet sure about mask requirements for recess.
- We believe that many of our after school clubs (ie Excel Sports) will be able to return, but we are unsure about which clubs and when.

Farewells, Adjustments, and Welcomes

- [Monika Shaheen](#) and her family are heading back to the Czech Republic. She is happy to be heading home, but she will always cherish the friends she made at LFS.
- [Kerry Stone](#) and her family are excited about moving to their new home in Columbia, Maryland. Ms. Stone has accepted a job teaching at St. Bartholomew's, but will always be part of our Little Flower family.
- [Patty Millar](#) will not be returning to Little Flower next year. She will miss her LFS students and is praying for discernment as she considers her next steps.
- [Emma Millar](#) will also not be returning to Little Flower next year. She is looking forward to following her dreams and exploring her passion to write for a living.
- [Nurse Pam](#) has resigned her position. As her husband finalizes his retirement, they are looking forward to having more time together.
- [Naomi Atkinson](#) is sad to be leaving LFS, but excited to join her husband on a new adventure as his work moves them north of Chicago next year.

- [Sarah Brown](#) is excited to be teaching PreK here next year, assisted by Mary Meyer.
- [Lyona Blake](#) will switch from Music and make Third Grade (Math, Social Studies, Science) her more permanent home.
- [Hana Greene](#) will be moving from the Kindergarten team to the Specialists team. She will be sharing her considerable theater background and experience with us next year as she teaches Performing Arts.
- [Kellen Murphy](#) will be moving from the Third Grade team to the First grade team where she will also be teaching religion.
- [Diana Hernandez](#) will be returning to LFS and making the big leap from middle school to the Kindergarten team. She enjoyed her time partnering with Mrs. Millar, but she is looking forward to working with kindergarteners.
- [Sandy Holmes](#) will be joining our staff next year as a Curriculum Coach. Sandy has extensive experience with both teaching and staff development. She is looking forward to co-teaching, planning, and helping the staff with our continuous improvement efforts.
- [Brooke Houghton](#) will be joining our staff as our librarian. Brooke has been teaching theater at Georgetown Day school. She is looking forward to very dramatically enriching our students' love of books and reading.
- [Tiana Marmaras](#) will be joining the PreK team as a teacher's assistant. Tiana brings a great deal of experience and is enthusiastic about joining our staff.
- [Sam Billings](#) (no relation to current LFS Billings) will be joining the middle school team as the science teacher. Sam tutored and taught athletes at the University of Miami. During the pandemic, he has been quite busy as a very popular, virtual tutor.
- [Matthew Graham](#) will be teaching second grade with Casey Graham (no relation). Mr. Graham recently graduated from Mount St. Mary's College with a degree in Theology. He has worked at St. Jane de Chantal teaching religious education and working in their Science summer camps.
- [Jordan Hunt](#) will be teaching Social Studies and Reading and Language Arts. Ms. Hunt graduated from Frostburg State University and she recently completed a Capital Teaching Residency at KIPP in the District of Columbia.
- [Meghan Long](#) will be our new school nurse. Nurse Meghan graduated from the Catholic University of America. She has recently been doing night nursing, COVID-19 contact tracing, and case management for Johns Hopkins Hospital and Harvard University. She has previous school nurse experience in several schools in Massachusetts. She's happy to join our team.