



# **Immanuel Christian Academy**

## **STANDING OUT IN FAITH**

*for Christ, the community, and one another*

July 3, 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope that this letter finds you all safe, healthy, and enjoying your summer. This letter is intended to be the beginning of a series of updates and information regarding the reopening of school. Last week the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued a set of guidelines on the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidelines are based on the current Phase 4 that we have moved into in the state of Illinois.

I have been reviewing the guidelines as well as attended a webinar that provided an overview and further information and details regarding these guidelines. As with much of the information regarding this pandemic, the guidelines may change or be amended as we move closer to the start of school. In fact, there were changes sent within 48 hours of the initial set of guidelines.

There are several mandated protocols which we must implement as we strive to reopen and return to in-person instruction, which is our goal. I have already begun meeting with various administrative and staff members of our church and school so that we may prepare and work on those mandated protocols.

It is my intention to also work to prepare you and your child for the return to in-person instruction. I mentioned that this is the first in a series of updates. You will begin receiving regular updates and information about what needs to be done, what is being done and what we all need to do in order for us to reopen. Please continue to check your email, the school website and the school Facebook page for updates. If you need to update your contact information, please contact the school office.

I would also like to request that if you did not complete the survey that was sent out prior to the end of the year, please do so. The link for the survey can be found on the school website.

It is extremely important that once our own guidelines and protocols (based on the ISBE and IDPH guidelines) have been established that we come together as a family to adhere to and abide by those guidelines and protocols. These have been daunting and difficult times and we must all work together for the health and safety of our students, parents, faculty, and staff.

Based on recommendations from the state board, we are preparing for several scenarios. Scenario One involves the return to in-person instruction with various modifications. Scenario Two is a Remote Learning Plan. This must be in place in case there is a resurgence in the virus or a second wave. Scenario Three is referred to as a Blended Remote Learning Plan which would involve a combination of in-person and remote learning. While it is my hope that we will be able to implement in-person instruction, the scenario we ultimately follow will be based on the situation at hand.

Our current start date of August 24, 2020 has not been changed. However, be aware that changes may occur in later calendar dates. Many schools have adjusted their term dates to allow for extended breaks over the holidays. However, as we are on a trimester system our term ending dates have usually occurred at a holiday.

We will still be sending a school mailing later this month regarding registration, supply lists, etc. Many of the forms will need to be completed online. Some registration may need to be done virtually.

I ask your continued patience and understanding as we chart this new territory. This is a journey that we will take together because of the great love that we all have for our children. God has continued to guide us and be with us on this path. He has seen us through so much in the past several months. Our theme for this coming school year will be, Unshakeable Faith. It is based on 1 Corinthians 16:13, which says, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. I ask that you all continue to stand firm and be strong.

Blessings!

Valerie Winston  
Principal