



**Assisting Parents  
in Bringing up their Children  
in the Training  
and Instruction of the Lord.**



# ***THE PARTNERSHIP POST***

**September 28, 2020**

At SVLS, we have been blessed that, to date, we have had no positive COVID-19 cases among students or staff this school year. Based on federal, state, and local data, we know that positive cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Wisconsin and the Fox Valley. In an effort to continue to slow the spread of the virus, **the administration and governance of SVLS has made the decision to continue to require that face coverings be worn indoors after Governor Evers' directive expires at the end of the month.** We will continue to monitor and evaluate this policy throughout the year and make adjustments when deemed safe and necessary. We thank you for your support and cooperation with this these first few weeks of school, and for your continued support and cooperation as we strive to keep our SVLS family safe and healthy moving forward, so we can continue to conduct in-person learning as often as possible. As a reminder, SVLS has already taken many precautions to slow the spread of this virus, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Educate students, staff, and families on COVID-19 and strategies for slowing the spread.
- All families pre-screen their students daily.
- Cloth masks required indoors.
- Frequent hand washing or sanitizing.
- Cohorts of classrooms, to keep students in different classrooms separate from each other.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Emphasizing keeping distanced from others as much as is possible.

Please continue to emphasize the importance of wearing masks, distancing, daily review of symptoms, and avoidance of large gatherings outside the school day in support of keeping our SVLS family and the entire community safe and healthy during this pandemic. May God continue to watch over and protect us as we go through the pandemic.

**SVLS's Christian Parent Teacher Association's** purpose is to provide fellowship, enrichment and support for the families, students and faculty of Shepherd of the Lutheran School. Please visit our page on the school website to see ways that we complete our mission.

<https://www.svls.us/cpta-christian-parent-teacher-association.html>

**Anyone interested in having CPTA continue, please plan on joining us Monday, Sept. 28th at 6pm. CPTA has been blessed over the years to provide for our families and faculty in a number of ways. SVLS families are needed to continue our events and fundraisers. This meeting will be at the K-8 campus address which is N8728 S. Coop Road in Menasha.**

Due to Covid, there will not be childcare available. **The meeting will be held in the gym.**

If you are not comfortable meeting in person and are interested in CPTA, please reach out to us.

Serving in Christ, CPTA committee (Jen Grady, Shannon Weyenberg and Mary Robinson)

### **School Pictures**

Retake Day is Tuesday, Sept. 29th. If your child was not at school on picture day or would like their picture retaken, they will be taken in the morning on Tuesday.

### **No School on Friday**

Friday, October 2 is a scheduled No School day. That morning is set aside for parent-teacher conferences, and teacher inservice is scheduled for the afternoon.

### **SVLS Governing Board Meetings**

As part of our school's participation in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, we are sharing with you the two required meeting dates of our school's governing board. As a result of our temporary partnership with Fox Valley Lutheran High School (FVLHS) under Act 59, FVLHS is our sponsoring organization and serves as our governing body. The dates of the meetings you see below are the meeting dates of the FVLHS General Board. You are welcome to attend these meetings, but you are under no obligation to do so. These meetings of the FVLHS General Board are:

- Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the FVLHS auditorium
- Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the FVLHS auditorium

If you'd like to attend either of these meetings, please contact Mr. Steinmetz, who will get you the contact information of the person to whom you can RSVP.

### **Before School EDP**

We are happy to be able to offer morning EDP (Extended Day Program) care 5 mornings per week, starting as early as 7:00 a.m. Our EDP leader is Mrs. Patty Block, who is our kindergarten aide this year. If your family would like to make use of EDP in the mornings, please contact the school office to make arrangements.

### **Virtual Attendance via Google Meet**

One blessing this year is being able to have webcams in each classroom to give students an opportunity to join the classroom virtually if they are quarantined; or if they are feeling slightly unwell to be physically in school, but they still feel well enough to "do school" from home via Google Meet. Since this isn't a fully remote learning experience and is a combination of students learning on-site and students learning at-home, joining the Google Meet at home without having any resources from school wouldn't be beneficial for the children. For that reason, if you will be keeping your child home to monitor some symptoms, but your child is still well enough to join via Google Meet, please arrange to pick up your child's school materials prior to joining the Google Meet, with as much notice as possible. Having those learning materials at home will ensure that your child will get as much out of the live classroom stream as possible, and we will likely ask you to not have your child join the Meet until they have the learning materials in front of them. Please direct any

questions to either your child's teacher or to Mr. Steinmetz. Thank you for working with us in this area to make this as practical and beneficial as possible for everyone involved.

### **After School Study Sessions**

We have begun holding our after school study sessions. These are scheduled study sessions from 3:45-4:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays when school is in session for students who are having a difficult time keeping up with their schoolwork or who have a certain amount of missing assignments. Teachers will notify you, likely via email, by 6:00 p.m. to let you know that your child will need to attend the after school study session on the following day. More information can be found in the school handbook starting on page 23. At these study sessions, students will be physically distanced at least 6 feet from one another, and desks used will be disinfected before and after use.

### **School Library Books**

This year, we are asking for school library books that are checked out on Wednesdays to be returned the following Monday. This will give the books at least 48 hours to sit out before being checked back in and being made available for other students to check out and read. Thank you!

### **Student Health Screenings**

Please continue to conduct daily [at-home health assessments](#) of your children before school each day. Thank you for your diligence in doing this to help keep our kids as healthy as possible, and for your continued support and cooperation. SVLS will continue to take safety precautions which are practical and feasible to keep our kids in school. We appreciate your cooperation in continuing to make wise decisions both inside and outside of school so we can stay in school as often as possible.

### **P-T Conferences**

The teachers have scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences for this week. Your conference date and time was sent home last week. Thank you!

### **1st Semester Mission Offerings**

We have chosen to support the WELS Prison Ministry with our school's first semester chapel mission offerings. WELS Prison Ministry is a special ministry of WELS which seeks to build relationships and share Jesus with individuals who are incarcerated and in prison. So far this semester, SVLS

has collected \$288.00 for WELS Prison Ministry.

#### **Worship at Bethel**

920-725-1822-English  
920-840-5490-Espanol  
Thursday Worship English 6:30pm  
Sunday Worship-English 8:00, 10:30am  
Los Domingos Misa-Espanol 12:00pm

#### **Worship at St. Luke**

920-788-4408  
Wednesday at 6:30pm  
Sunday at 9:00am

#### **Worship at Mt. Calvary**

920-731-4001  
Thursday at 6:30pm  
Sunday at 8:00 & 9:00am in  
Menasha and 6:30pm in  
Stockbridge

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School**  
*"in the training and instruction of the Lord"*

N8728 S. Coop Road, Menasha

October 2020



**Preschool, Mrs. Megan Schoenbach, Preschool Director**

Our preschool classroom has been busy getting back into the swing of going to school. They love to watch the leaves change colors and fall off the trees. They cannot wait to use the new rakes and wheelbarrows that were donated to the preschool classroom. The Little Farmer is going to present a virtual field trip on Oct. 7th. They will talk to us about bees and how they make caramel apples. They are even going to send us pumpkins and apples to take home! Preschool really needs help with the Aftercare program, so spread the word. Email Mrs. Schoenbach ([megan.schoenbach@svls.us](mailto:megan.schoenbach@svls.us)) for more information.

**Kindergarten, Mrs. Ashley Steinmetz**

Happy Fall! This month we will be looking at how God keeps his promises to the children of Israel and to us. In math class, we will learn our numbers 6-10 and how to compare amounts. We will continue to work with letter- sound relationships and how those form words that we can read. In Science, we are working on hands-on exploration of animals and their habitats. We have been so blessed to have Mrs. Patty in our room to work in small groups and help with more precise learning.

**Grades One and Two, Mrs. Angela Knorr**

The first and second grade classroom is off to a great start this year. Things may look a little different than in the past few years, but we feel very blessed to be learning in person. Our ChristLight lessons this year focus on the New Testament and the life of Christ. We will be studying some of Jesus' parables and miracles in the coming weeks. One exciting new addition to the SVLS curriculum this year is Quaver Music. We have enjoyed learning about steady beat and different meters. We also love the silly songs and moving to the music! In Science we are learning about rocks and landforms and our Social Studies unit is citizenship and government. Recently a couple naturalists from Heckrodt Wetland Reserve visited our school and taught us about the life cycle of butterflies and honeybees. Our class even watched our own monarch butterfly create his chrysalis and emerge. We released him in our backyard butterfly garden. Please keep us in your prayers this school year. We pray that you stay healthy and close to Jesus!

**Grades Three and Four, Mrs. Greta Backus**

What a blessing it is to be together again in the third and fourth grade classroom! There are twenty-one students in our room this year. We have been digging into the New Testament and learning about the miracles of Jesus at the start of each day. The students have been busy talking about rounding, place value, and different strategies for adding and subtracting. We are reading *The Tiger Rising*, by Kate DiCamillo, to take a closer look at characters. The third and fourth graders really look forward to our weekly science investigations that have been focusing on the properties of water. In social studies, we have been learning about different parts of our environment such as, land, water, climate, and natural resources. We have been working on our realistic fiction pieces for writing. Our class is also having fun learning about meter and ostanatos in music. God's blessings to you during the upcoming month!

**Grades Five and Six, Mr. Ben Edmundson**

The school year has been off to a different but great start in 5-6 grade. The kids have been getting back into the usual rotation of in person classes. Overall the kids have done an outstanding job at keeping everyone safe and following the Covid guidelines put in place by Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School. The fifth graders are making a big push this year to be more independent with their work both in Math, Science, Reading, and History. Sixth graders are stepping into a new role this year, being an example for the younger fifth grade class. The goal is to keep them in school with everything going on and the kids are stepping up to the task very well.

## Grades Seven and Eight, Mr. Jacob Steinmetz

The 7th and 8th grade children receive instruction primarily from two teachers. Mr. Jacob Steinmetz (Bible Study, Maths, Science, Phy Ed) teaches in the mornings, and Mrs. Cheryl Root (Social Studies, all English Language Arts, Music, Art) teaches in the afternoons. Additionally, the children receive twice-weekly instruction in the Catechism from Pastor Raasch (Bethel), and twice-weekly instruction in Spanish from Miss Corina.

This year is our New Testament year in Bible Study, and we are just finishing up a unit on The Messianic Age, where we've looked at various Messianic prophecies and seen how they have been fulfilled in Jesus. Following that unit, we will begin a unit studying the Gospel of John. In our math classes, we've been doing some review of concepts and starting to incrementally get into some new content. This year in science, we will have units on Planetary Science, Human Systems and Heredity, and Gravity and Kinetic Energy. We are currently working our way through Planetary Science, where we're studying Earth's rotation and orbit, characteristics of the moon, and the like. In Phy Ed, we spent a couple days disc golfing on a custom campus course, with a goal that this sport might be something the students will be able to take with them and enjoy beyond their years of school.

## Continued, Mrs. Cheryl Root

The 7th-8th graders have been busy getting adjusted to being in the classroom, which we all love, and focusing on studies. In writing workshop students have been doing 'quick writes' on personal experiences and finalizing touches on their narrative. Everyone has a story to tell. Topics include injuries and illness, horseback riding, household fires, getting lost, pet stories, camping, and competitive sports. In reading workshop students have been exploring types of conflict in the stories that they are reading and sharing favorite books. In geography we have been focused on 'thinking like a geographer and exploring the five themes of geography. Currently students are working in teams to develop climate graphs of cities throughout North America and presenting what they learned about their assigned city under the themes of location, place, region, human and environment interaction, and movement. These concepts will be revisited as we explore the world. In art class, students have created beautiful expressions of 'Bible Treasures' surrounded by floral wreaths painted in watercolor or beautifully created with markers. While it was not planned, each student selected a different Bible Treasure to highlight. A picture of their artwork is included below.





**Individual and Small Group Instruction, Mrs. Joann Kasten**

"Run to Christ" based on Matthew 11:28-30 is the theme of the 2020-2021 school year. Jesus is in control even when school is more than a bit different from what was normal. The comfort that Christ offers is eternal for all time. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." The Individual and Small Group Instruction Program welcomes all of our return volunteers: Donna Hartjes, Jeff Dercks, Judy Milis, Elsa Manthey, Marilyn Harke, Nancy Krenke, and our substitute Carl Weisheim. This school year the Board of Education increased my call to 3/4 times to better serve more students and coordinate the volunteers. They also approved Nancy Szep volunteering on Tuesday and Thursday morning to expand instruction with students on a regular basis under the supervision of the Individual and Small Group Instruction Program. We pray the Lord will bless all of our efforts in this new school year.

**From the Principal**

We are all so happy to be able to continue meeting together in-person for school; and we are thankful that up to this point, God has looked favorably upon our SVLS family and kept us all relatively healthy. We have been able to continue in-person instruction for all our classrooms and have not had to quarantine large groups of students or move to a fully remote learning model in any classroom. We have had some children who have joined our classrooms virtually via Google Meet periodically when they couldn't be with us in-person. So we thank God for the blessings he's given us to be able to continue to facilitate learning in a variety of ways so we can continue to work with our school parents as they bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord!

One thing children enjoy about school is getting out of school and going on field trips. It's not that field trips won't happen this year; they'll just look a little different. Some classrooms have had, or will be having, virtual field trips, and we're thankful for the technology available for us to be able to do that. Another thing we're thankful for is our local and community partners and organizations, who have developed field trip resources and options for schools which are specific to this school year. Many of our field trip partners from previous years will conduct outdoor "field trips" at the location of the school, and they will send one of their representatives to our school as a guest speaker, to still give the children that field trip experience, even though we don't leave the campus.

In previous years, we've generally looked forward to a couple of events around this time of year, such as Grandparents Day and Prairie Fire Children's Theatre. Such events have been postponed, and we are looking forward to being able to enjoy those events in the future. Coming up at the end of September (Sept. 30 - Oct. 2), we will be having parent-teacher conferences to discuss the children's strengths as well as areas we've noticed for improvement. October 2 is a scheduled No School Day, to allow for parent teacher conferences in the morning and teacher inservice in the afternoon.

Lastly, we are almost finished with our school's WELSSA (school accreditation) self-study, and we are looking forward to hosting our school's site visit on November 16-18.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of SVLS. God be with all of us as we continue to navigate the waters of life we are going through, and may we find strength and comfort in his words and promises!

In Christ's service,  
Mr. Jacob Steinmetz