



FacetoFace Ministries is happy to announce that there is a tentative plan in place to allow for on-location School Retreats during this 2020/21 school year. Our staff has been deep in prayer and attentive to the Lord's promptings as we have waited for the protocols and expectations to solidify across school divisions in western Canada. We are up for the challenge of meeting the expectations laid out by Covid-19 restrictions in schools and are doing our best to create a FacetoFace School Retreat that both meets those expectations and allows for an excellent retreat experience. This retreat model will be a hybrid including the three following aspects:



IN PERSON SESSIONS

Excitement is stirring as we've begun to plan retreat sessions. We are planning for groups that are much smaller than normal, from individual classes of around 20 students at a time, to schools that have created cohorts, which allow for a few classes to gather together. This, among other restrictions, is a new opportunity for us to let the Holy Spirit work through us in fresh, creative ways. As our in-person component is similar to previous FacetoFace School Retreats, we would like to assure you that although some aspects will remain the same, others will be adapted to meet the health and safety requirements in place both for your protection and for the protection of our retreat leaders.

Sessions will begin with students bringing their own chair (when possible) to the gym and placing them on spaced out, pre-marked spots being at least 6' apart and the front row being at least 10' away from the area rug 'stage' that the session will be led from. The retreat leaders will be welcoming and engaging the students from the stage during this time. Students will remain in or beside their chair for the duration of the session – including games. Upon finishing the session, students will take their chair with them and return to their classroom. The retreat team will remain in the stage area during this time. In situations where students may not have individual detached chairs to bring to the gym, our retreat leaders will work with the school to decide the best plan. It is our preference that these sessions be prioritized to the highest grades as we know we can cultivate an environment that offers opportunity of authentic conversion. This could also be our last opportunity to grow alongside the eldest grade depending on next year's School Retreat bookings.

LIVESTREAMED ASSEMBLIES

Just as schools are now having virtual assemblies and Masses from their gym, we too will be using the gym to facilitate the 30-minute opening and closing assemblies over Zoom. FacetoFace Ministries has been doing excellent youth retreats, evening events, and even a 3-day summer camp within the limitations of Zoom. We have been blown away with the success that has come through this style of ministry. We also have come to master getting the absolute most out of Zoom's video and audio features. We are able to bypass all of Zoom's audio processing settings offering an audio signal so unbelievably clear that you will soon forget you are using Zoom. As per video, excellence can be expected. You can anticipate high quality lighting and multiple camera

angles all coming from the same Zoom participant feed as we have gathered the experience, knowledge, and equipment needed to far surpass expectations. This will all be facilitated in a Zoom meeting ID that we provide to your staff over the schools own Wi-Fi. We have with us a 100' ethernet cable and an additional wireless router to strengthen the wireless signal in the gym (if needed). The opening and closing assemblies will be filled with engaging faith filled and fun content. You can expect laughter, class-to-class competition, teaching, and prayer moments.

PRE-RECORDED VIDEO SESSIONS

The final and simplest component of your FacetoFace School Retreat is access to pre-recorded video sessions. This digital folder access will be provided in grade-appropriate folders so that teachers may use it at their will. In the past, a class would spend the opening assembly (40m), their grade appropriate session (45m - 1h15m) and the closing assembly (40m) with the two Retreat Leaders. As with gathering limitations many classes will not have the opportunity to join the leaders in the gym for their grade appropriate session and so we have decided to pre-record content that we would have otherwise shared with them. This will include fun stories, talks, teaching moments, games, songs with actions, and prayerful music moments all designed to allow the students to remain in their desks and still have a positive faith experience. There will be around an hour of age appropriate content for each grade with two viewing options for this content. We will have an altogether one-hour video "session" for those teachers that prefer to share it with their class in a designated time slot, and a second option of that same session broken up in to numbered individual content videos to be spread out throughout the day. A class might also choose to re-watch particular sections (such as songs) after having participated in their one-hour session already.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(times adjust to fit your bell schedule)

8:50	First Bell
9:00 – 9:30	Virtual Opening Assembly (livestreamed in the Gym)
9:30 – 10:30	Class/Cohort Sessions in Gym (1h)
10:30 – 10:45	Recess
10:45 – 12:00	Class/Cohort Sessions in Gym (1h 15m)
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch (Retreat Leaders will eat in the Gym)
1:00 – 2:30	Class/Cohort Sessions in Gym (1h 30m)
2:30 – 2:45	Prep Break for Retreat Leaders
2:45 – 3:15	Virtual Closing Assembly (livestreamed in the Gym)
3:15 – 3:30	Retreat Ends
3:30	Final Bell

Our team has been reminded again and again that our God will not be limited by Zoom meetings and small gatherings. As we've been facilitating 30-person weekend events and summer camps in these past few months, we have been in a constant state of astonishment and thankfulness as even with event restrictions being faithfully honoured, hearts are still coming to the Father. God is greater than this pandemic, greater than these limitations, and so much greater than our expectations. The Lord shows up with faithfulness and so should we. And so, we are beyond excited to present our 2020-21 FacetoFace School Retreat: *Great Things*.

<https://f2f.ca/schoolretreats/>