



SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

EST. 1956

Re-Opening FAQ's

-Are we still starting on time and which scenario will we start with (green, yellow or red)?

Yes, we are still planning on a green light scenario (every child, every day) and still plan for a safe return of students on campus for classes on August 3rd.

-Is the Back to School Bash/School Supply Drop-off still going to occur?

Yes, we are still having the bash but it will look very different this year. We are redesigning it to prevent large gatherings of people and to abide by parameters for social distancing. More details to follow.

-Looking at the academic calendar, why is there one Wednesday a month dedicated to at-home learning?

They allow our community to practice at-home learning. Should we have to shift to learning at-home again this coming year, it is important to practice in advance so that we ensure minimal disruption to your child's academic progress.

-Why is there a week of at-home learning at the end of the semester?

Following the lead of many universities, we believed it a necessary precaution to end our on-campus semester at Thanksgiving. Looking at both our own attendance records and well-documented research, we know that there is a spike in illness at school each year following Thanksgiving. This precaution should keep our students and teachers healthier and safer. Given the general uncertainty we face, we also thought it important to front load as many on-campus instructional days as possible to ensure your children receive the academic foundation they need. Furthermore, the week of at-home learning provides an opportunity to practice at-home learning.

-What if I don't have childcare for the additional at-home learning days?

Although we ask that you make arrangements for childcare in advance, please know that if you are unable to do so, we are here to help if needed.

-What if my child must quarantine for fourteen days?

We will ensure your child's education continues under any circumstance. In that event, we would shift your child's learning to our at-home model and, when he or she is clear to return to campus, they would rejoin their classmates.

-Will you let us know if there is a COVID case in our community?

Yes, absolutely. While protecting the confidentiality and privacy of the affected individuals, we will notify the entire community of a case and cooperate with the local health department in contact tracing individuals who had prolonged exposure. Please know that communication is key here as we can only share information we receive. For further details on this, consult *The Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools Re-Entry Policies and Procedures* (see p. 4 and 7 specifically).

-What if my child has a fever? Does that mean he or she must automatically quarantine?

As they do in a typical year, we recognize that children will still get fevers for reasons completely unrelated to COVID-19. If your child(ren) are not showing other symptoms of COVID-19, such as a loss of taste, then we will follow our standing policy and ask that your child stay home from campus until he or she is free of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

-If my child or anyone in my immediate family tests positive for COVID-19, am I required to disclose that to the school?

Yes, we are requiring that you share this information with us as that helps us ensure a safe, healthy community and better protect the well-being of others.

-If I am uncomfortable sending my child to school, is there an online option for this school year?

Yes, we are offering an online option for those who do not wish for their children to come to school. Choosing this option requires the commitment of an entire quarter, after which we can reevaluate whether you'd prefer in-school classes or commit to another quarter of learning at-home. Please let us know by July 27th, if you prefer the at-home option. Please note that this option costs the same as regular tuition and, per diocesan policy, it also means forfeiting participation in co-curricular activities for the time that the student is learning at-home.

-Will we be implementing social distancing and other preventive measures for the entire school year?

Working with our diocese, the health department, experts in our community, and consulting continued guidance from public officials and expert bodies like the CDC, we will be reviewing these measures on a two week rolling basis. Every two weeks, our diocesan school leadership team will make a determination for the following two weeks. Although it is our hope for school to normalize, at the same time, we will continue our commitment to both the safety and well-being of our students and faculty.

-Will students be entirely separated? Will they be able to have recess and socialize?

We recognize that socialization is necessary for both their emotional well-being and development as well as their academic success. Students will still have recess, enjoy lunch with their friends, participate in small groups within their classroom learning, attend special areas with their peers, and participate in grade level and all school Masses.

-How/when will facial protective equipment be worn?

Students and faculty will wear facial protection when inside, except while eating. Face shields will be provided by the school for the students to wear during class. We will assign them individually to each student and they will be sanitized daily. Families will provide a solid color mask for the student to be worn from the carpool to the classroom in the morning and from the classroom back to the carpool in the afternoon.

When outside at recess, students will not be required to wear facial protection, except when the teacher directs them to because they are grouped closely together for an extended period (i.e., drawing with sidewalk chalk or talking at an outdoor table).

-How will lunch and recess work?

For lunch, we are taking advantage of the common spaces on our campus (the cafeteria, the gym, the pavilion, and the Cathedral Hall) to create smaller lunch groups. Students will still have the opportunity to socialize with their friends but they will be spaced out. Also, Chef Advantage will still have healthy, on-site meals provided. These meals will be served in individual portions and we will move away from serve-yourself options (i.e., look for individually portioned salads rather than the salad bar).

For recess, we plan for daily cleaning and sanitizing of the playground equipment. We will have smaller recess groups. Students will not be required to wear facial protection during outdoor recess, and P.E., unless they are gathered for an extended time in close proximity to their peers.

-Will faculty/staff be doing daily temperature scans too?

Yes, we implemented that policy last spring and plan to continue it this year.

-What about field trips?

We are working to reschedule field trips for the spring. If spring trips are unable to be made, then we will either refund your field trip fee, credit it to your account or you may elect donate it to the school.