

We take great pride and joy in welcoming you to the 2020-21 school year! It will be so good to have your children back within our school walls! We have been diligently working with the guidance of the Office of Catholic Schools, the Marion County Health Department, and the CDC in developing Nativity's Re-Entry Protocol. Below are some commonly asked questions concerning the re-entry to Nativity's 2020-21 school year.

### **When will school start?**

We plan to open Nativity on our regularly scheduled start date of Monday, August 10, 2020. The only change to the previously published calendar is that we will be in session on Thursday, August 13th due to changes in the Parish festival. Tents will be set up in the back parking lot on Thursday, so dismissal will be on the football field. Directions for dismissal will be sent out in the school newsletter closer to the day.

### **Will masks be required?**

Students and staff will need to wear masks, at times. Masks will be required while entering and exiting the building, in common areas such as the hallways and when social distancing is not possible. Students should be sent to school with a mask (labeled with their name) daily. In general, when students are at their desks, they will not need to wear masks since they will be socially distanced.

### **I don't want my child wearing a mask.**

We know that there are strong opinions about the use of masks. The Indiana State Department of Health cited a 40-60% reduction in COVID-19 transmission when masks are used by all, which is why we are requiring them for certain portions of the day. Children, despite being generally less affected by COVID-19, expose school staff and adults at home who may be more at risk.

### **Will social distancing be required?**

We will practice social distancing when possible. In classrooms, student seating may be arranged to all face in the same directions and will be spaced as far apart as possible. At lunch, we will add additional tables and maximize the available spaces for distancing.

### **Will students be screened for COVID-19 symptoms?**

Parents need to be attentive to the daily health of their children and will be required by the Archdiocese to sign a Student Health and Safety Plan indicating their commitment to ensure their child is symptom free and safe to attend school each day. This includes being fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. School staff will also be receiving professional development on how to recognize potential COVID-19 symptoms. The Student Health and Safety Plan will be sent to families in an email prior to the beginning of school.

### **How will I drop my child off in the morning?**

We will continue to offer morning care from 7 to 7:45 each day. Parents will need to drop off their child at door #1. If arriving between 7:45 – 8:15, students in PK, K, & 1 will need to enter door #3. Door #3 is located on the back parking lot by the 1st grade classrooms. Students will be greeted by a Nativity staff member and escorted to the classroom. Since parents and guests are not allowed in the building, they will need to say goodbye to their child outdoors. Students in grades 2-8 arriving between 7:45-8:15 will enter door #1, #4, or #5.

### **What changes will students see in the cafeteria?**

Students will notice extra tables set up in the Titan Café and will be asked to sit spaced as far apart as possible. Masks will be required while picking up food in the cafeteria line. Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering the café. Students will be assisted by food service staff when choosing their pre-wrapped choices and when checking out of the hot lunch line. The microwave will not be available to heat up lunches brought from home. Students should bring their lunch from home in the morning or purchase a lunch in the Titan Café. Lunch deliveries will not be allowed. Visitors are not allowed in the lunchroom.

### **Will parents and visitors be allowed in the building?**

Unfortunately, we must restrict all school visitors to promote health, safety and social distancing, so parents and visitors will not be allowed in the building. To pick up a child early, a parent should call the school office upon arrival at school and wait at the picnic tables on the front porch. Your child will be called to the office and escorted out to the front porch.

### **What about water fountains?**

We are asking that each student bring a filled water bottle daily. All water fountains have been turned off. Each classroom is equipped with a water dispenser and 3-oz cups in case a student forgets his/her water bottle.

### **What changes will be implemented on the playground?**

Students will have recess as they have had in the past. Classroom balls will be collected and sprayed with sanitizer at the end of each recess. Students will use hand sanitizer before reentering the school building.

### **How will dismissal be different?**

In order to keep the number of students in a hallway to a minimum, we will be dismissing students in shifts. At 3:05, extended care workers will pick students up from the classroom and lead them to one of four check in areas. At 3:10, all “B” classrooms will be dismissed to the car lot. At 3:15, all “A” classrooms will be dismissed to the car lot. No car will leave the parking lot

until all students are dismissed, cars are loaded, and the teacher on duty releases the cars. This does mean that cars filled at 3:10 will need to wait until after the 3:15 load to leave the lot. We appreciate your patience as we implement this new process in keeping our children safe! Students should not be picked up by parents other than in the car line. (For example...no parent should park at the church or parish center and walk to pick up a child.)

### **Will there be any changes in the extended care routine?**

Students will be checked into four rooms instead of gathering in the gym to check in. Playtime will be outdoors as weather permits. If indoor playtime is required due to weather, the gym will be scheduled in increments for each group to use. Parents will enter door #1 (wearing a mask) and will be greeted by the monitor who will call the child down to the entry.

### **Will the students still go to weekly Mass?**

Right now, we have two options listed in our Re-Entry Plan. We will determine which option will work best closer to the beginning of the school year. Students are required to wear masks while in church.

Option 1: If operating at ½ capacity, there is seating for 370 people. All attendees will wear masks with social distancing guidelines in effect (make “airplane arms”).

Option 2: If operating at less than ½ capacity, all A classrooms will attend Mass one week with B classrooms holding a prayer service in their classroom. The next week will be reversed.

### **What will happen if someone tests positive for COVID-19?**

If we have a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will follow the directions of the Marion County Health Department and the Office of Catholic Education. Many of our new procedures are designed to support contact tracing should a confirmed case occur

### **Will these procedures be in place all year? Will Nativity stay open all year?**

We don't know what the rest of the school year may bring. If cases surge and the governor orders schools to close again, we will once again offer eLearning. If the situation improves, we may be able to abandon some elements of this re-entry plan and return to normal operating procedures.

In case of eLearning, we will be utilizing Google Classroom. Additional information concerning changes in our eLearning practices will be published in the weekly school newsletter at the beginning of the year.

### **What cleaning will take place in the school building?**

We've stocked up on personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and cleaning supplies in each classroom. Desks and chairs will be sanitized at the end of the day and after any class switches to a new classroom. In addition to our regular cleaning, our day porter

will be disinfecting more often in the common areas such as restrooms, hallways, and high-touch areas like door handles.

### **Will there still be a “Meet Your Teacher” night?**

Originally on the calendar for August 6th, we will need to reconfigure the “Meet Your Teacher” event to be cognizant of social distancing. In mid-July, we will send out an email with a Sign Up Genius link. Similar to when families picked up items at the end of last school year, each family will sign up for a 15-minute time on August 6th to visit with the teacher. Students may bring supplies in at this time.

### **What social and emotional resources will be in place as students return?**

We recognize the importance of providing students with extra social and emotional support as they return to school. Expect to see special welcome activities, allocated class time for reestablishing relationships, learning new routines, and learning about coping strategies. Professional development for teachers will be provided on materials and lessons to address the social and emotional needs of students.

### **What can a parent do to help their child transition back to school?**

- ☑ Encourage your child to ask questions and answer them to the best of your ability.
- ☑ Have your child practice wearing a mask for short periods of time.
- ☑ Follow recommended guidelines regarding masks and social distancing this summer.
- ☑ Help your child get back to a normal bedtime/wake-up schedule at least a week before school begins.
- ☑ Stay positive and excited about the beginning of the 2020-21 school year!

### **If my family chooses eLearning for 2020-21, when do I need to register and when will it begin?**

If you choose eLearning for your family, you need to make your request to Ms. Bianchini before August 1<sup>st</sup>. We are anticipating that eLearning begin no later than Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. If possible, we will begin the week of the 10<sup>th</sup>, but need to confirm the number of students participating in eLearning and formulate a schedule for our videographer to begin sending video lessons home.

### **Can my child play CYO sports if we e-learn?**

The Office of Catholic Schools has determined that eligibility of a student to play CYO sports while e-learning is a local decision. Since CYO is a parish ministry, it has been determined that students are allowed to participate in CYO sports while e-learning at Nativity.

### **Will band be offered to students in grades 5-8 as it has been in previous years?**

Roncalli has been most generous in offering a band program for Nativity's 5th through 8<sup>th</sup> graders the past several years. The safety of our students' health is a top priority.

Unfortunately, with the nature of band (especially the wind instruments), we determined that it would be best to suspend our band program for this year. We are hopeful that Roncalli will offer this program to us in future years.

### **My child will be going to extended care after school. How will I pick him up?**

In order for us to have time to check in extended care students, we will begin allowing parents to enter door #1 at 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and at 2:45 on Wednesdays. Once entering the building (masks on, please), you will sign your child out and the extended care monitor will call for your child to come and meet you in the Narthex.

### **What happens if someone gets COVID-19?**

The Marion County Health Department will be notified immediately. We will then follow their recommended protocol. Any decisions regarding quarantine, etc. recommended by the Marion County Health Department will be communicated to families via JupiterEd.

### **COVID-19 POSITIVE – SYMPTOMATIC**

- ☑ If an individual is COVID-19 Positive they will be excluded from school.
- ☑ An individual will be permitted to return to school if at least 72 hours have passed since his/her recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS: (ALL YES, OK TO RETURN)

1. Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
2. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever?
3. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

### **COVID-19 POSITIVE – ASYMPTOMATIC**

If an individual is COVID-19 Positive they will be excluded from school. An individual will be permitted to return to school 10 days from the positive test provided no symptoms have developed.

## **NO COVID-19 TEST – SYMPTOMATIC**

If an individual is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested, s/he will be excluded from school. An individual will be permitted to return to school if at least 72 hours have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS: (ALL YES, OK TO RETURN)

1. Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
2. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever?
3. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

### **My child has an ear infection and a fever but doesn't have COVID-19. What will happen?**

When a parent calls the school office to report a child as ill, they will be asked a series of questions including the symptoms of the illness. If the symptoms exhibited are known symptoms of COVID-19, we will ask that the student be seen by a doctor. If the symptoms are not COVID-19 related, we will proceed as we normally have in the past. A student that has an alternate explanation of illness (strep, ear infection, etc.), may return to school after 24 hours resolution of fever with no fever reducing medications. A note from the doctor upon the student's return would be appreciated.

### **I saw what door numbers to enter, but I'm not sure where they are located. How many students will be grouped together in Extended Care?**

Our largest classroom is 19 students so we will be limiting each extended care group to 19 students as well. This way, they will have the appropriately spaced seating as we use the classrooms.

### **My child has asthma and I am concerned about the wearing of a mask.**

Although the information shows that masks are the best protection, students with asthma or other breathing illnesses can wear a face shield instead of a mask. We do ask that parents contact Ms. Bianchini at [tbianchini@nativityindy.org](mailto:tbianchini@nativityindy.org) if your child will need to wear a face shield instead of a mask.

### **I don't like the idea of dropping my child off at the school building door on the first day of school.**

We totally understand and continue to pray that things will change in the next few weeks before school begins. But as of now, parents and adults are not allowed in the building for safety purposes. This is not just a Nativity guideline but a guideline of all of the South Deanery

schools. You and your child will be able to visit the classroom and speak with the teacher individually during the “Meet Your Teacher” day. A Sign-up Genius link will be sent home soon so you can pick your child’s time to visit the classroom, drop off classroom supplies and become familiar with the teacher. Every morning, staff will be at door #3 to greet your PK, K, and 1st grade student and walk them to the classroom where a teacher will be standing at the door to meet them.