



Holy Family Regional Catholic School

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Dear Holy Family Supporters,

Thank you to everyone for responding to our inquiry last week about school spacing and instructional options as we look to launch the 2020-21 school year.

As the “return to school” date looms ever closer, planning work and safe implementation remains paramount. Just as in your homes, our “new normal” means plans which are now being made will swiftly change due to the nature of this pandemic, consequently our staff will work hard, will keep you abreast and alert as required.

The feedback from parents has allowed us to move ahead with our plans to provide both in person and live stream instruction. We have targeted October 16th as the endpoint, however in the upcoming weeks anticipate updating.

Student in Grades Prk-3 Prk-4 Kindergarten	Students with Last Name A-L Will have in classroom instruction on A Days	Student with Last Name M-Z Will have in classroom instruction on B Days	Students Live Streaming every day/or on non-in-classroom days
Will attend class in person each day	A Days September 9,11,15,17,21,23,25,29, October 1,6,8,12,14,16	B Days September 10,14,16,18,22,24,28,30 October 2,7,9,13,15	*classroom schedule/links be shared

Very recently, updated guidance for school reopening was shared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The guidance is supported by individual county health statistics and improves the decision making efforts as we plan to begin learning in the 2020-21 school year.

Based on these guidelines our facility spacing plans and reliance on live streaming instructional support to offer both safe in-person and virtual instruction remains a prudent course of action. However, if the Chester County Health Department reports signal increasing incident rates or positive rates, a shift to an all-virtual school experience will be required. Trust, our staff is up to the task!

For your information and support below are some frequently asked question and responses to best help you prepare for the upcoming year.

1. Will this be a safe reopening?

Our planning and operation plan has been overseen by the Office of Education at Archdiocese of Philadelphia (<https://aopcatholicsschools.org/covid-19-information/>). Our practices and interventions have been adopted by following guidance by national, state and local agencies responsible to help curtail and eliminating the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Key elements include but are not limited to:

- Regular and nightly disinfectant and hydro-static cleaning of all surfaces and use areas
- Daily temperatures checks of all staff and students
- Student spacing of 6ft or more for social distancing in all school spaces
- Regular use of masks and protective shields
- Abundant availability to regular hand sanitizing stations
- Expanded use of classroom fans
- Daily limited contact/movement with other student groups (group sizes of 13 or less)
- Limited sharing of materials among students
- In progress is the addition of a 2nd floor water bottle filling station (a station was added to first floor last year. We hope this will help with hydration and overall safety.

2. With all of these changes, will Holy Family still be “rooted in Faith”?

Our staff is fully committed to insuring that each day our shared faith is alive, practiced and visible. Daily prayers will be shared as a community, in-group or in spirit of one. Religion classes will be taught/streamed each day. Our team is building multiple ways we can participate and/or live stream Mass and other important faith based rituals. Our staff and all who support our work are steadfast in believing that each day, Covid-19 or not, our shared faith is alive and we are “rooted in Faith”.

3. What, beyond daily monitoring, will occur if someone gets sick with Covid-19?

Key role of our daily **on site nurse** will be to lead and direct implement the Chester County Health protocols for in school Covid-19 occurrence.

<https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/59205/COVID-19-School-Response-Actions?bidId=>

Briefly, this protocol will guide when, who and how individuals and groups will be quarantined and/or return to school.

4. What about facemasks?

Our state is requiring facemasks for all over the age of three. Although there are exception, in general all people in our building and on our busses will be asked to wear facemasks. We are requesting that all facemasks be of a solid color (opportunity for Holy Family logoed facemask may occur in the future). *Sensitive to the school environment and age of students, there will be multiple logical mask breaks throughout the day supported with adequate social distancing of beyond 6ft etc.

5. Can we select any solid colored facemask?

Please use your best discretion in supplying your student with solid colored facemask (and extras in case of lose or accidents).

It is important that in the weeks leading up to school you begin to have your child practice wearing a facemask and working with adults who may have on face masks/face shields. Teachers will be using facemasks as well as face shields so that all children have visual facial clues and build levels of comfort. We anticipate that children will have many “facemasks breaks” at times and in locations when they are safely socially distant, these breaks will help all work safely but maintain and awareness of age appropriate needs, abilities and practices. The more you can build ease of mask wearing at home, the smoother this transition will become. Trust we will all be growing and learning as this unfolds.

6. Will the building have cleaning protocols?

In addition to ongoing sanitizing the classroom areas, each night our building will be cleaned and a hydro-static sprayer will be utilized to bring all surface areas into a safe status.

Because of age level needs, individual classroom teachers will be establishing safe practices to better insure safe storage and clean material use with attention to non-sharing and controlled touch points.

7. What about lunch and recess?

Current plan to limit student movement will require students to eat lunch in their assigned rooms. As in the past, lunch will be available for purchase (online) and will be delivered to students rooms.

We will schedule recess to allow for outside breaks whenever possible with large spacing and designations to insure safety. Recess breaks will occur at logical times as established by playground use, teacher scheduling and weather. All play equipment will be sanitized daily.

8. How will attendance be recorded?

Classroom teachers and room supervisors will mark students present in person, present live streaming or absent. As hurdles occur, we will navigate solutions.

9. Will CARES be offered?

This is still being considered as we determine safety practices.

10. Will my local school district offer bus transportation?

We are awaiting updates.

11. How will we drop off and pick up students?

Plans which will help guide the safe pick up and drop off will be shared soon. The focus will include efforts to limit any entry or egress congestion during this high movement time.

We will update shortly on required adjustments to our pick up and drop of practices.

Thank you all for your support as we navigate this very challenging era!

In prayer,

Charles Hughes
Principal